FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 5, 1989

The 20th anniversary of the Kent State University chapter of Students for a Democratic Society (SDS) will be observed at KSU on May 5 and 6 during events sponsored by present-day student activists of the May 4 Task Force and the Progressive Student Network. Former SDS activists from Kent State will be joined by former national SDS leaders including Mark Rudd, Bernardine Dohrn, Carl Oglesby, Carl Davidson and others.

Events will begin during the evening of May 5 with a focus upon Kent SDS. Saturday morning, May 6, will feature a retrospective look at SDS nationally. Saturday afternoon will emphasize positive and negative lessons of SDS as applied to today's new student movement. Films and workshops and an evening party will conclude events on May 6. (See enclosed tentative "conference agenda" for details.)

Mark Rudd, former National SDS leader, will deliver an address: "the Death of Terry Robbins". Rudd's comments will focus his analysis upon the violent tactics which lead to Robbins's death by an accidental bomb detonation. Rudd is now openly critical of the past tactics of "Weatherman" and other SDS factions.

Other speakers will offer their detailed opinions of SDS and its demise locally and nationally. Bernardine Dohrn will return to KSU which is recalled as the scene of her first campus speech as SDS national leader in 1968. Dohrn, Davidson and other featured speakers will offer varying analyses of "the rise and fall of SDS". Carl Oglesby, former SDS President in 1965-66, is a former KSU student.

Today's student activists will attend from KSU and across America and will participate vigorously. A special attempt will be made to focus upon the lessons of SDS with the hope that activists in the 1990's will only build upon the positive lessons of SDS and reject past student activists' errors.

Kent SDS was one of the nation's most militant and well-organized SDS chapters during the late-1960's. Dozens of Kent SDS members will participate and will arrive back at Kent from coast-to-coast. Slide-shows, films and oral history will guarantee a meaningful and educational re-union for past and present student activists.

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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: Alan Canfora (former Kent SDS member, wounded at KSU by National Guard gunfire on May 4, 1970)
call: 216-745-1097, 745-7783, 453-2047
write: Box 3313, Kent, OH 44240

(NOTE: national media are welcome to attend and report these events.)
The chairperson of the May 4 Task Force announced Thursday (April 27) that the "Academic Symposium on Student Activism" on May 5 and 6 at Kent State University has been postponed.

Stacy Stephens said there are several reasons why the May 4 Task Force has decided not to hold it at this time.

"The May 4 Task Force wanted to be able to present a broad range of ideas and viewpoints on how students can and have been effective in raising the public's awareness on social issues. But due to a lack of time to prepare for the seminar, the Task Force has decided to postpone it until we are able to devote the time and energy needed to organize a program that would benefit everyone," Stephens said.

She added, "The May 4 Task Force was also concerned about inaccurate reports presented to the media about the purpose of the seminar."

The Task Force is looking into the possibility of holding the seminar in the Fall.

Stephens stressed that the purpose of the May 4 Task Force is to accurately present the facts about the May 4 shootings at Kent as well as educate the public about what happened so that a similar tragedy will never happen again.

(more)
First Add--May 4 Task Force

She emphasized the importance of keeping the lines of
communication open when there are different views on social
issues.

The May 4 Task Force has taken the leading role in planning
May 4 Commemoration events in recent years.

### 4/27/89
Progressive Student Network--KSU
Re: Student Activism Symposium

May 1, 1989

On Friday, May 5, and Saturday, May 6, the Progressive Student Network, a student organization at Kent State University, will conduct a "Symposium on Student Activism" on the KSU campus. The purpose of the event will be to appraise the effectiveness and direction of contemporary student activism by reflecting on the historical significance of the Students for a Democratic Society (SDS), with emphasis on the issues and tactics the group employed at both the local and national levels during the Vietnam era.

The conference will begin on Friday evening with a reunion of past leaders and members of Kent's SDS chapter. Saturday's agenda will feature speeches by past national leaders of SDS, including Bernardine Dohrn, Carl Oglesby, Mark Rudd, and Carl Davidson. A panel discussion and workshops will follow to relate the lessons of SDS activism to the issues and goals which concern student activists today.

The Progressive Student Network assumed sole sponsorship of the symposium after the May 4th Task Force--the student group which originally conceived and planned the event--experienced organizational difficulty and chose to abandon the project so that it could concentrate on its traditional task of organizing the annual ceremonies which commemorate the shootings of four KSU students by National Guardsmen on May 4, 1970.

The Progressive Student Network has been active on the KSU campus for over two years: it seeks to educate and organize the public in regard to social problems such as environmental degradation, racism, sexism, poverty, and militarism. The PSN operates with the support of the Progressive Student Network

For more information contact: Tom Albanese, PSN president, #(216) 672-5709.
SYMPOSIUM ON STUDENT ACTIVISM

TENTATIVE AGENDA

FRIDAY, MAY 5, 1989:

6:30-7:30pm Reception
7:30 Opening address, welcome back comments.
7:45-8:15pm Slide presentation (Kent SDS).
8:15-9:15pm Kent SDS in perspective: addresses by Jim Powrie and Howie Emmer, former Kent SDS leaders.
9:15-11:00pm Kent SDS in perspective: general discussion featuring former Kent SDS members.

SATURDAY, MAY 6, 1989:

9:00-9:15am Introduction of featured national SDS speakers.
9:15-10:55am Featured speakers, 25 minutes each, various views represented:
   A) Carl Davidson, SDS VP, 1966-67; Interorganizational Secretary, 1967-68.
   B) Carl Oglesby, SDS President, 1965-66.
   C) Bernardine Dohrn, SDS Interorganizational Secretary, 1968-69.
   D) Mark Rudd, SDS National Secretary, 1969-70.
10:55-11:05am Break
11:05-12:30pm Response Panel, 6 individuals (5 minutes each) and open discussion.
   Panel participants: Joyce Cecora, Ken Hammond, Robin Marks, Howie Emmer, Dennis O'Neil, NYU SDS.
12:30-1:30pm Lunch
1:30-3:00pm Student Activism Today: Lessons, positive and negative, of SDS.
   Panel Discussion: Student leaders from national U.S. student activist organizations today: Progressive Student Network, United Coalition Against Racism, Student Action Union, DC Student Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism.
3:00-5:00pm Films of SDS and 1960's anti-war activism, etc.
   Workshops: topics to be decided (concerning SDS and student activism today).
5:00-7:00pm Dinner
7:30-? Party
Commemoration of the May 4, 1970, tragedy at Kent State University, in which four students were killed and nine others wounded during a confrontation with the Ohio National Guard, will begin at 6 p.m. in the Kent Student Center Kiva on May 3 with an educational forum. The program will feature several speakers including Christina Baldwin, author, teacher, a leader of the peace movement at Macalester College in Minnesota in the 60s and former president of the Macalester Alumni Association.

The free forum will be followed by a folk concert at 8 p.m. Performers include singer, storyteller U. Utah Phillips and political folksinger Valerie DePriest. Tickets for the concert, held in the University Auditorium, are $8 for the public and $3 for students.

At 11 p.m., the annual candlelight march will begin on the Commons. It will end at the Prentice Hall parking lot where the confrontation took place.
First Add--May 4 Commemoration

Following the candlelight remembrance, a 12-hour vigil will commence and last until the memorial program on the Commons begins at noon. Featured speakers for the memorial program include Baldwin; Dr. Gene Young, an adjunct lecturer at Jackson State University in Mississippi, and a witness to the shootings there; David Cline, a Vietnam Veteran, who is now an outspoken leader for Vietnam Veterans against the War; Mark Rudd, teacher, author and a former national secretary of Students for a Democratic Society; (SDS) and, Carl Oglesby, a professor, former Kent student activist and former national SDS leader.

During the memorial program, there will also be a tribute paid to the late Arthur Krause who recently died of cancer. He was the father of Allison Krause, one of the students killed on May 4, and a man dedicated to educating people about the tragedy.

The candlelight march, vigil, and memorial program are held annually to remember the students killed.

As in the past, classes beginning at 12:05 p.m., 12:15 p.m. and 1:10 p.m, the hours when the confrontation took place, will be cancelled in remembrance of the tragedy. Classes with a meeting time of 1:45 p.m. on May 4 will begin at 2:15 p.m. All other classes will meet at their regular time.

Attached you will find a list of the speakers for the May 3 educational forum and the May 4 remembrance program that was provided by the May 4 Task Force. The May 4 Task Force has taken the leading role in planning May 4 Commemoration events in recent years.

(more)
Second Add--May 4 Commemoration

In addition to regular business hours (8 a.m. - 5 p.m.) on May 3, University News and Information will be open from 10 p.m. until 12:30 a.m.

### 5/1/89