TO: Faculty Instructor, Freshman Orientation  
FROM: Michael A. Lee, Faculty Advisor, May 4th Task Force  
SUBJECT: Introducing New Students to May 4th  
DATE: September 25, 1992

The last two times I taught Freshman Orientation, I gave my students a list of optional topics we could cover. In both cases, the classes picked the subject of May 4, 1970. We know that all of us encounter questions on May 4th from friends and acquaintances so, I am always pleased when the opportunity exists to provide some basic factual historical background for new students at Kent State.

A particularly useful and objective introduction is contained in the video/film *Kent State - May, 1970* narrated by E. G. Marshal and available through KSU Audio Visual Services on the 3rd floor of the library. This film contains clips and photos from the actual events of May 4, 1970 as well as interviews with observers. The film is 23 minutes in duration and allows time for comments and questions afterward.

I know something about these events because I have served as faculty advisory to the May 4th Task Force for the past few years. This student group has, for many years since the shooting, carried out an educational function as well as organizing the annual May 4th commemoration.

Often, it is possible for a member of the May 4th Task Force to attend an Orientation class and answer questions which students have about the film and the events it describes. There are also additional materials, films and slides which the Task Force maintains if those would be of use to your group.

To reserve the film, call 672-FILM. If you wish to contact the May 4th Task Force for a resource person, call the Task Force Office at 672-3096.
TO: Student Instructor, Freshman Orientation
FROM: Samantha Carver, President, May 4th Task Force
SUBJECT: Introducing New Students to May 4th
DATE: September 25, 1992

As President of the May 4th Task Force, I want to introduce our organization to you and to let you know of some of the resources available for use in introducing new students to the important events of May 4, 1970.

A primary function of our organization is the education of students about May 4th and its implications in today's world. We know that many Orientation instructors give the students options of which aspects of life at KSU they would like to learn about and often requests are made for information on May 4th. A particularly useful and objective introduction is contained in the video/film Kent State - May, 1970 narrated by E. G. Marshal and available through KSU Audio Visual Services on the 3rd floor of the library. This film contains clips and photos from the actual events of May 4, 1970 as well as interviews with observers. The film is 23 minutes in duration and allows time for comments and questions afterward. Often, it is possible for a member of the May 4th Task Force to attend an Orientation class and answer questions which students have about the film and the events it describes.

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Samantha Carver
Questions and Facts About May 4, 1970

1. How many KSU students died as the result of the shootings at Kent State on May 4, 1970?
   All 13 people wounded on that date were students at KSU. One died instantly of a gun shot wound to the head. Two were pronounced dead on arrival that at Robinson Memorial Hospital. One more died that afternoon at Robinson. Of the 9 students wounded, one is in a wheel chair and two others remain partially disabled to this date.

2. How many people were ultimately charged and convicted as a result of the shootings on May 4th?
   Immediately after the shootings, indictments were brought against 25 students, faculty and other citizens. They became known at the “Kent 25”. A variety of charges were levied against these individuals, many of whom were not even present during the student protest on May 4th. Ultimately, none of those involved in the May 4th activities were convicted of any charge. Much later, a grand jury was convened to investigate charges that the Guard had unlawfully “deprived the civil rights” of those who died. No indictments resulted from that investigation.

3. True or False. The Guard were ultimately exonerated as having shot the students out of self defense.
   Immediately after the shooting, General Delcorso, who commanded Troop G which had actually fired on the students, made a statement to the press that Troop G was being “over run by the students” and harassed by “sniper fired” and had “acted in self defense”. Photos of the shooting and eyewitness accounts formed the basis of the FBI report which later showed that no student was within 60 feet of the guard and there was no evidence of a sniper.

4. True or False. The student protest of May 4th was promoted and organized by “outside agitators” who had come to KSU for the purpose of provoking an incident.
   In the Federal commission and the FBI report on the events, it was stated that no outside political agitators we known to be present or in any way involved in the developments of the events. The few outsiders present were primarily local citizens and high school students who were present out of curiosity.

5. How many bullets were fired on May 4th?
   In 13 seconds, the National Guard fired 67 bullets. Photographs of the incident show several guardsmen aiming towards the sky, but those same photographs show a small group of guardsmen in G Troop who were responsible for wounding most of the 13 students.
6. Who called the students of KSU “scum” and promised to “eradicate” the problem on May 3rd, 1970?

Governor James Rhodes, in a public address used the terms in a heated speech on the day before the shootings. Charges were made that his “get tough” speech was a public indication of his private message to General Delcorso who commanded G Troop. James Rhodes served four terms as Governor of Ohio, for a total of 16 years.

7. Where is the statue with the bullet hole?

There remains a famous reminder of the events of May 4th in the form of a bullet hole in a metal sculpture outside of Taylor Hall. Visitors to the shooting site often peer though the hole to gain a view of the trajectory which one of the bullets took. This hole, as with almost all other facts of the events of May 4th, has been the subject of controversy because the metal around the hole is flared away from the parking lot and towards the Guard. Scientific analyses have shown that this flared shape is normal for a bullet moving towards the parking lot filled with students and results from the bullets force in pushing the metal out of its path.

8. Where is the May 4th Memorial located?

The year after the shooting, students, faculty and friends contributed to a small stone marker which was placed under a tree near the site of the slayings in the parking lot adjacent to Prentice Hall. For 20 years, this small stone with the names of the students was the only visible monument to those who had died on the KSU campus. In 1990, a memorial was built, though the subject of much controversy, and now resides between Prentice and Taylor Halls overlooking the Commons.

9. What is the purpose of the May 4th Task Force.

The May 4th Task Force was created by the students of Kent State University 17 years ago. The KSU administration held an annual commemoration of the shooting for a few years after 1970, but soon decided that three commemorations was enough. Students of the time responded to the decision to cancel commemorations by forming the Task Force for May 4th. The name was later changed to the May 4th Task Force and the student group has continued in its tradition with the political and financial support of the Undergraduate Student Senate since then. Its mission, summed to a single statement, is the education of the students and public of the events of May 4th and promoting an understanding of the implication of those events for our future.

10. Where and when does the May 4th Task Force meet?

The May 4th Task Force gathers at 7:00 PM each Thursday evening in room 308 of the Student Center. They have taken as their primary activities each year, the organization of a fall program, named the Fall Forum, and the Commemoration that occurs on May 3rd and 4th each spring.