Commemorations begin for May 4

Rachel Abbey
Daily Kent Stater

The 36th annual commemoration of May 4 will continue tonight with a candlelight drum circle at 9:30 p.m. at the May 4 Memorial.

Anyone who wants to join in or just enjoy the “chill atmosphere” is welcome, said Justin Stine, treasurer of the May 4 Task Force and senior electronic media productions major.

According to its Web site, the May 4 Task Force was founded by Kent State students and those affected by the shootings and has been working to raise awareness since 1975. The task force is holding events this week to commemorate the shootings and events surrounding May 4, as it has for years past.

Events kicked off last night with a burial of the U.S. Constitution, symbolizing the similar ceremony students held in 1970. This is the first year the task force has held this event, Stine said.

The week’s other events have become tradition, but are still important, Stine said.

“It’s important because it happened here,” he said. “It’s important for people to know about and at least recognize it.”

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MAY 4

Commemorations begin for May 4

Stine said students can still get involved with the annual silent vigil being held from midnight to 12:24 a.m. Thursday in the Prentice Hall parking lot. Volunteers will stand in half-hour shifts in the spaces where the students were killed.

The May 4 Task Force will have sign-ups for volunteers at the Symposium on Democracy today and tomorrow, Stine said.

Contact administration reporter Rachel Abbey at rabbe y@kent.edu.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Today:
- Candlelight drum circle at 9:30 p.m. at the May 4 Memorial.

Wednesday:
- Panel featuring veterans and peace activists discussing “Confronting War and Militarism: Strategies From the Past and Visions for the Future” at 7 p.m. at the Kiva.
- Annual candlelight march at 11 p.m. beginning at the Victory Bell.

Thursday:
- Annual silent candlelight vigil from midnight to 12:24 p.m. in the Prentice parking lot.
- The 36th annual May 4 Commemoration, “The Cost of War: Now and Then,” from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Kent State Commons.

Speakers include Mary Ann Vecchio, witness to the shootings, at 1 p.m. and Medea Benjamin, founding director of Global Exchange and co-founder of Code Pink; Women for Peace, at 1:40 p.m. Vecchio is the young girl seen screaming above one of the fallen students in one of May 4’s most famous photographs.

There will also be musical performances from EP3 at 11 a.m. and Emma’s Revolution at 1:15 p.m.

In the case of rain, the commemoration will be held in the Ballroom in the Student Center.

- The March for Peace will start after the end of the commemoration in the commons and progress to downtown Kent.
- The Arlington Midwest Memorial for soldiers who have died in Iraq and Afghanistan will be held all day at the commons.
The May 4 Task Force buried the U.S. Constitution as students did 36 years ago on May 4 next to the Victory Bell at the bottom of Blanket Hill. The event is an annual tradition. Read more about this event online at www.stateronline.com.
Amanda John, senior integrated science major, lights candles around the May 4 Memorial last night with other students and members of the May 4th Task Force. The event, which featured a drum circle, is one of several events in preparation for the 36th anniversary of May 4.

Drum circle prepares for May 4

Although she is not a member of the task force, she said events such as the drum circle motivate her to participate in its events.

“A sense of community is formed during events like these,” Malone said. “It shows we’re drumming for peace.”

Amanda John, senior integrated science major and member of the May 4 Task Force, said the best part about the drum circle revolved around the atmosphere.

“It creates a peaceful atmosphere around the memorial,” John said.

Tuesday’s event was the first time the task force used the drum circle at the May 4 Memorial, John said.

The task force started planning the event in February, said May 4 Task Force president Kevin Heade, senior political science and education major.

Heade’s motivation to use the drum circle for the May 4 Task Force events came from a recent reflection, he said. Heade also said he experienced drum circles in the past at music festivals.

“I was sitting by the memorial, writing a personal entry in my journal when I was overwhelmed by this feeling to do something,” Heade said. “I thought, ‘The drum circle’s a way to do this times a million.’ The purpose of the drum circle is to give people an opportunity to connect and tap into their collective sense of being. By exploring our collective history, we are actively reflecting on a powerful event.”

The task force, in existence since the 1970s, will feature May 4 events throughout the week, Heade said.

“Our mission is to find events that connect May 4 to students that are alive today,” he said.

Contact general assignment reporter Josh Echt at jecht@kent.edu.
MEMORIAL

Memorial inadequate for May 4 events, author says

In the article, Gordon said that despite disagreements about the shootings, historical significance or modern meaning, all investigations and studies of May 4, 1970 have supported that the shootings were "unnecessary, unwarranted and inexcusable" overall.

The memorial's designer and the university agreed on the inscription's phrase, according to the university's brochure about May 4. They hoped the phrase would inspire visitors to "inquire" about the reasons for the events related to the shootings, to "learn" about the event with an open mind and to "reflect" on how that day could have been solved peacefully.

Gordon said he does not plan on approaching the university about changing the inscription but wrote the article to raise discussion.

Karen Cunningham, May 4 Task Force faculty adviser, said it's important to challenge the status quo.

"It's always important to question, to always be inquiring: Is this the way things should be?" Cunningham said. "Can they be different? Can they be better?"

However, while Cunningham said the current inscription does not make a strong political statement, she disagrees with Gordon's feelings about changing the current inscription. While the inscription doesn't tell people what to think about the events of May 4, it does encourage them to think about them, she said in an e-mail.

"They should ask questions and talk to people who were there," Cunningham said. "They should read things such as the Scranton report, the FBI reports and various books on the subject. They should attend programs and take classes to learn more about what happened. They should learn different perspectives, and reflect upon what they've learned and draw their own conclusions as to the lessons of May 4."

"In other words, they should think for their own - not be told what to think by someone else," she said.

Gordon transferred to Kent State in 1972 and graduated in 1973. He said his interest in the shootings has led to more than 20 articles and books, such as Four Dead in Ohio.

Contact administrative reporter Rachel Abbey at abbey@kent.edu.
Memorial inadequate for May 4 events, author says

Rachel Abbey
Daily Kent Stater

After years of reflecting on the May 4 Memorial’s inscription, “Inquire, Learn, Reflect,” author William A. Gordon is still not impressed.

“It’s a cliché,” Gordon said. “It’s a platitude.”

The History News Service recently published Gordon’s article about Kent State’s memorial, which he says is inadequate.

MADALYN OTCASEK | DAILY KENT STATER

The crowd chattered anxiously until the Victory Bell rang out, signaling for silence among the 200-plus crowd in the Commons.

SEE MARCH, A7

Commemorating May 4

Here’s what is happening today:

- Annual Silent Candlelight Vigil
  - What: The annual vigil will be held in the space where the four slain students fell in the Prentice Hall Parking Lot. Participants will be standing for half-hour shifts.
  - When: Midnight to 12:34 a.m.
  - Where: Prentice Hall Parking Lot

- 36th Annual May 4 Commemoration
  - What: “The Cost of War: Then and Now.” Speakers include Medea Benjamin, founding director of Global Exchange and co-founder of Code Pink Women for Peace, and Mary Ann Vecchio, witness to the May 4 shootings. There will also be performances by Emma’s Revolution and ep3.
  - When: 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
  - Where: KSU Commons

- Rain location will be in the Kent State Ballroom.

- Arlington Mid-West Memorial
  - What: A memorial to the fallen soldiers of Iraq and Afghanistan. Individual tombstone markers bearing the names of every casualty represent the cost of war and encourage open dialogue on the cost of war. Exhibit brought to campus by the Northeast Ohio Peace Coalition.
  - When: All day
  - Where: KSU Commons

- March for Peace
  - What: A rally will commence after the commemoration and will proceed to the gazebo on Franklin Street in downtown Kent.
  - Where: Starts at KSU Commons
  - When: After the commemoration

Source: May 4 Task Force
Panel discusses May 4’s impact on politics

Breanne George
Daily Kent Stater

A panel discussion “Confronting War and Militarism: Strategies from the past and visions for the future” was held in Kiva last night to answer questions regarding the Vietnam War, May 4 and the current war in Iraq.

Six panelists led the discussion, which was sponsored by the Kent State May 4 Task Force and moderated by Patrick Coy, director of the Center for Applied Conflict Management.

Panelist Chic Canfora, English lecturer at Kent State, was a student activist at Kent State in 1970. She said May 4 reminds students of the activism that took place in the 1970s. She hopes students will continue to question their government and stand up for what they believe in.

“We have to remind people that America should not have stood for the war then,” she said. “And we must remind people that America should not stand for it now.”

Panelist Joe Lewis, former Kent State student in the 1970s, was shot twice by the National Guard on May 4, 1970. He said student activists were regarded as communists via the media in the past.

The panelists were asked if protesting promotes change, and all six agreed that student activism was the reason the Vietnam War ended. Panelist Gary Lockwood, Vietnam veteran, said change only can occur by the activism of many people. He said student activism appears less common today.

“Students have to take to the streets and let their voices be heard,” he said. “Power is in numbers.”

Canfora disagreed and said she believed students are just as active, but have less time to do so due to rising tuition costs and credit card debt. She emphasized not underestimating the power of students.

Panelists also discussed the May 4 commemoration, which has taken on other social and political implications.

“It would be a disservice if we didn’t mention the war in Iraq on May 4,” Lewis said. “It’s not proper to remember only an isolated moment of time and not speak on its current relevance.”

Leatrice Urbanowicz of Frederick, Maryland comments on the Confronting War and Militarism: Strategies from the Past and Visions for the Future panel discussion in the Kiva last night. The event was organized by the May 4 Task Force who will be sponsoring events all day today.

Contact student politics reporter
Breanne George at bcgeorge@kent.edu
May 4, 2006

Task Force wants Cartwright’s coat

The May 4 Task Force is asking President Carol Cartwright to donate her red rain jacket to the May 4 Collection of the Kent State archives.

The only problem? She hasn’t owned it for the past eight or 10 years.

“If I had it, I would donate it,” Cartwright said.

Sarah Lund-Goldstein, past president and current member of the task force, said she remembers always being able to find Cartwright in the crowd at the candlelight walk because of her bright red jacket.

Cartwright said she wore the jacket her first year at Kent State because it was the only weather-appropriate clothing she had. She gave it to a clothing bank almost a decade ago.

The task force still wants to recognize Cartwright in some way during the May 4 events, Lund-Goldstein said.

“She has been the most supportive president up to date about remembering the event,” Lund-Goldstein said.

— Rachel Abbey
Kent State and the Legion of Doom

by Aaron B. Pryor | Nov 3 2006 - 11:18am | permalink

There are incredible goings on at my alma mater. The journalism department is vacating its old quarters for a building on Front Campus. The new building is one I remember as old and crochety, with sticky walls and apparently been made over, and so the J-School and student newspaper will move in a year.

A student organization has asked me to write to the administration on behalf of the vacated space. See, the newspaper looks out onto one of the most famous historical sites of recent U.S. history: The Prentice Hall where Jeffrey Miller fell when he was shot by the Ohio National Guard, where Mary Ann Vecchio found him and became an iconic image through the lens of John Filo.

The May 4 Task Force is asking the new president to consider turning the old office into a May 4 Visitors Center, a perfect location for such a thing. The heavily windowed office overlooks the lot and the memorial itself. The administration is considering it, but it's also considering stashing the Center in the same building but on the third floor.

My response to the Task Force's request suggests that the new administration change course on its general May 4. I suggested that instead of trying to shake the event off its fingers like some stubborn gooey taffy, as should embrace the event as an interdisciplinary academic program that would occupy the entire first floor office. The University does, after all, own the legacy of May 4, like it or not. As an alumnu, I can tell you that the first thing people ask you about isn't the fine Liquid Crystal Institute or the miraculously surging I think the administration would do better for the school to embrace May 4 as a unique academic opportunity relations problem it has to deal with once a year.

But, what do I know.

I have to admit that I haven't been back to Kent for a May 4 vigil for many years, but I intend to this spring. by Air Force Secretary Michael Wynne.

Wynne hit the newspapers recently when he discussed the notion of testing nonlethal weapons, such as high devices, against American citizens before they're used in battle.

For some odd reason, his comments made me think of the Kent State shootings.

You know, until there were bodies on the ground, most of the students assumed the Guard's rifles held rubber bullets, learned a profoundly graphic lesson that a government willing to use rubber bullets on its own people is also willing to use microwave guns on its own people willing to do above and beyond.

Chilling, no?

So, I hope to march with a candle in the spring. I suppose I should be grateful to Sec. Wynne for making my 20s seem relevant to me now in my late 30s. Somehow, though, gratitude is rather far from my thought comments.
If ya'll think the idea of an accessible, staffed May 4 Visitors Center might be a good idea, I think the M4TF from you. (may4taskforce@yahoo.com). May 4 is a good thing not to forget, if not for the usual hackne remember such things—"so we are not doomed to repeat it"—then at least for the reason that the secretary, comfortable with the idea of zapping you and yours full of microwaves.

Have a nice day.
KSU group wants May 4 visitors center

Task force requests first floor of Taylor Hall near site of 1970 shootings. Space already promised to others

By Carol Biliczky
Beacon Journal staff writer

A Kent State student organization has asked the university to establish a visitors center to preserve the memory of May 4.

Ideally, the center would occupy the first floor of Taylor Hall, which overlooking the site where four students were killed and nine wounded by Ohio National Guardsmen during a Vietnam War protest on May 4, 1970, said John Behnken Jr., president of the May 4 Task Force.

In some years thousands of tourists come to Kent State because of May 4, but there's no single place for them to visit to learn about the event, he said.

KSU architect Tom Euclide said the task force's request might not be possible, given that the campus hasn't constructed an academic building since the Liquid Crystals Institute a decade ago. Classroom space is tight.

Journalism and mass communications programs will move out of Taylor Hall next summer for renovated quarters in Franklin Hall, but the space left behind is promised to architecture and communications studies, he said.

"The building is over-programmed now," Euclide said.

"It's very well used and fully used."

Currently, May 4 materials are stored in the May 4th Resource Room in the library, the library archives and the May 4 Task Force Student Center office, which it shares with the Feminist Union, said Behnken, an electronic media student from Oak Harbor.

Many task force members store memorabilia in their homes because there's no other place to put it.

"They've had it there for 20 years and they want to get rid of it," Behnken said.

The task force had its eye on half of the first floor of Taylor Hall for its books, films, videos, vigil candles and banners, but Euclide has another idea - to outfit a room on the third floor, home to the architecture program, for a dual purpose: quiet study by architecture students and a home base for May 4 material.

In addition, he has fledgling plans to replace the roof of Taylor Hall with a rooftop plaza in five to 10 years.

Tourists would be able to walk around the perimeter of the roof to see where the students were shot - the location in a parking lot is noted with markers - and where the guard stood when it fired at students.

Carol Biliczky can be reached at 330-996-3729 or cbiliczky@thebeaconjournal.com.
May 4 group seeks Taylor Hall space Task force envisions visitor's center near memorial for 1970 KSU shootings

David O'Brien
November 12, 2006

Record-Courier staff writer

The May 4 Task Force, which works to raise awareness of the events of May 4, 1970 at Kent State University, said current renovations to campus buildings will open up space for a dedicated visitor's center near the May 4 memorial.

The task force, a student organization founded in 1975 by former KSU students Alan Canfora, Robbie St Kahler, who were wounded by gunfire on May 4, 1970, sees the renovation of Franklin Hall as an opportunity to open up space for a formal visitor's center in Taylor Hall. It would occupy space vacated when the Daily Kent Stater student newspaper moves offices in the School of Journalism and Mass Communications move to Franklin in 2007.

Taylor Hall was the backdrop to the May 4 events and is located just a few steps from the May 4 memorial. Goldstein, the task force historian, said the group's members want the visitor's center to be easily accessible.

"We were looking at the existing space that is currently the Daily Kent Stater's office, the Office of Student Life director, small professor's office with the idea of putting in a small suite," she said.

The center, Lund-Goldstein said, would likely include articles, artifacts, art and educational materials related to events of May 4, 1970, but wants "something more" with some interpretation" of the events of May 4, "because that's what's lacking." She said everyone who was on campus at the time and other items KSU does not have space to store in its archives.

Lund-Goldstein said the task force understands classroom space is at a premium on campus, but wants "something more" with some interpretation" of the events of May 4, "because that's what's lacking." She said everyone who was on campus at the time and other items KSU does not have space to store in its archives.

"This is not meant to further one specific viewpoint," she said, "but to put the events in an educational and historic perspective.

KSU President Lester Lefton has said the events of May 4, 1970 can be a useful teaching tool for students.

"There's no denying, nor should we be denying, the effect of May 4 on Kent State University," he said, "but part of our history, and it's part of our history we can learn from and grow from. It's helped define this institution as a national university and so why deny or try and bury it? We need to not celebrate the event but we can learn from the event."

Anyone interested in supporting the plan e-mail the task force at May4TaskForce@yahoo.com or fax a letter (413) 521-8447.

KSU Architect Tom Euclide did not return a message seeking comment.


11/13/2006
The Peace Patriots

When: 8 p.m.
Where: Kiva
What: Screening of the documentary The Peace Patriots followed by comments and a question/answer session with filmmaker Robbie Leppzer. Sponsored by the May 4 Task Force, Center for Applied Conflict Management and Department of Political Science.
The PEACE PATRIOTS

A Feature Documentary
Film About
Dissent
In A Time Of War

Narrated by
Janeane Garofalo

Music By
Steve Earle
Pete Seeger
Ani DiFranco
Billy Bragg
Jonatha Brooke
John Sheldon

"This film gives us hope and inspiration. I hope it will be seen widely."
— Howard Zinn, author of A PEOPLE’S HISTORY OF THE U.S.

Film Director Robbie Leppzer will speak and lead a discussion following the screening.

TONIGHT @ 8PM
KENT STATE UNIVERSITY KIVA
FREE ADMISSION

Sponsored by the May 4th Task Force, Center for Applied Conflict Management, and the Political Science Department

For more info and to order a DVD: www.ThePeacePatriots.com
May 4 Task Force looking for expansion

Group looks to move historic memorabilia across campus

Elise Franco
Daily Kent Stater

Memorabilia from the events of May 4 have been on display in the May 4 Resource Room in the Library since the spring of 1973. Now, more than 30 years later, members of the May 4 Task Force are asking to move it all.

John Behnkken, president of the task force, said the organization wants the resource room to be closer to the memorial, which sits outside Taylor Hall.

"With the location of Rooms 101 and 102 of Taylor Hall in relation to the memorial, it would only make sense for us to occupy that space," Behnkken said.

He said some task force members have had memorabilia tucked away in their basements for about 20 years because they have no where else to put it, and the resource room is too small to house it all.

Each year, task force members paint a banner for the May 4 remembrance ceremony. Behnkken said they do it in each other’s houses because they have no place to do it on campus. He said moving the task force to Taylor Hall would eliminate those issues and allow the resource room to be more complete.

"As you can see, we have a major need for more space," he said.

Tom Euclide, director of the Office of the University Architect, said as of right now, the space on the first floor of Taylor Hall has been set aside for architecture students.

"Decisions were made over a year ago that architecture would take over the space vacated by the School of Journalism and Mass Communication when they move into Franklin Hall," he said.

Behnkken said he has heard the same thing and is not happy about it.

"The university says the space is already set to be given to the architecture department, but we began talks with the university two years ago when the space was open and had not been allotted to anyone," he said.

However, Euclide said the task force is not being ignored. There have been separate talks with the Provost’s office and the architecture department to see if Taylor Hall could still become home to a new May 4 resource room.

“They are talking about redoing the architecture library on the third floor," he said. "Space could potentially be worked out in there."

Behnkken said the amount of space that will be allotted to house memorabilia is still vague.

Even though it will be closer to the memorial than the library is, Behnkken said visitors won’t want to track it down. If everything is stored in the new Daily Kent Stater office, all guests will have to do is walk through the doors.

William Gordon, author of Four Dead in Ohio, said this isn’t a new proposal.

"They suggested it in '73 and ended up with the resource room," he said. "They’d be better off just adding to it. I would trust the task force or the university to do a good job of handling something like this."

Gordon said the university tends to downplay May 4, and because of this, the task force is naive to think they will get anything new out of the administration.

Although it doesn’t look like the architecture department is going to give up Rooms 101 and 102, Behnkken said the task force members will keep trying until they are satisfied with the result.

Contact general assignment reporter
Elise Franco at efranco@kent.edu.
May 4th Task Force

The May 4th Task Force was founded on the basis that the truth about what happened in the May of 1970 had yet to be told and that the lessons to be learned from that tragedy should be part of a continuous and living history. Since 1975, the purpose of the M4TF has been to raise awareness among students, faculty, and the general public about the shootings of May 1970 and the history of subsequent related events.

More information:
• Meetings are Thursdays, 7 p.m. in the May 4th Resource Room at the Kent State University Library.

PRIDE

As one of Kent State University's top student organizations with several hundred members, PRIDE addresses the importance of equal rights for all people. We work to attain undeniable liberties currently not offered to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and other sexual and gender minorities; we address other inequalities concerning race, gender, sexual orientation, class, and ethnicity that might occur on campus and in society. PRIDE stands for “People Respecting Individual Diversity Everyday” and encompasses cultural, political, historical, and educational grounds through its activities and causes. We open our doors to all people!

More information:
• Contact PRIDE at pridekent@yahoo.com
• Join the group listserv for e-mails at http://groups.yahoo.com/pride_kent
• Meetings are Thursdays, 8 p.m. in the Kent State Student Center. Send an e-mail for the room number.
Filmaker: protest movement weakens

Kiera Manion-Fischer
Daily Kent Stater

The Iraq war has been a hot topic in recent months.
"Anti-war sentiment is stronger, but the protest movement is weaker," Robbie Leppzer said.

Leppzer presented his film The Peace Patriots to about 75 students at the Kiva last night.

The May 4 Task Force, along with the political science department and the Center for Applied Conflict Management, sponsored the movie.

The film deals with the early protest movement against the war in Iraq, which began in March 2003.

Leppzer said the movement grew stronger and faster than the movement against the war in Vietnam. However, while the war continues, the protest movement has slowed.

John Behnkem, president of the May 4 Task Force, said the group was "trying to focus on student activism," and he thought the film showed "different ways that people can peacefully protest, get their message across."

Pat Coy, associate professor of political science and director of the Center for Applied Conflict Management, said few issues in American politics are more important than peace and war.

"It's easy for most citizens to understand the government's point of view, because they presented it constantly. It's more difficult to understand oppositional points of view."

Pat Coy | Associate professor of political science

Leppzer said he hopes the film will "inspire students to become more active in issues that they feel concerned about."

Leppzer began making films at an early age. His first documentary chronicled the 1977 protests against the Seabrook Nuclear Power Plant.

More information about the film can be found at www.the-peacepatriots.com.

Contact news correspondent
Kiera Manion-Fischer at kmanion@kent.edu.
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

May 4 history is already preserved

Dear Editor:

We in Libraries and Media Services were surprised to learn through several articles in the local press of the proposal by the May 4 Task Force for a May 4 visitors' center. The goals of the proposed center seem to have been published without a full awareness of the collections and services provided by Special Collections and Archives in relation to May 4.

Starting in 1970, Special Collections and Archives has established the most comprehensive collection of archival materials in all formats, including artifacts, related to the Kent State shootings and their aftermath. This collection is evidenced by more than 250 cubic feet of material. LMS has worked for many years to gain the trust of potential donors of May 4-related materials, and we continue to actively seek additions to the May 4 Collection. Since 2004, Special Collections and Archives has added more than 30 cubic feet of archival material to its May 4 holdings, and new collections are acquired on a regular basis.

In 1973, LMS created and continues to manage a dedicated space in the Main Library building for the May 4 Resource Room. This room includes artwork and other selected items from the library's collection, as well as general information on the events.

Special Collections and Archives provides daily reference and research assistance related to May 4 to a broad community of users—from middle school students to media professionals. These information requests come from both on- and off-campus communities. The May 4 Collection in Special Collections and Archives is administered by professional librarians and archivists whose core mission is to connect people with information sources to seek their own understandings of May 4. Additionally, researchers can find resources including annotated bibliographies, hundreds of digitized photographs, chronologies of events, oral histories, and online exhibitions on the Special Collections and Archives May 4 Web site (http://specoll.library.kent.edu/4may70).

We agree with the Task Force that there needs to be more interpretive information available near the site of the shootings and the May 4 Memorial. However, we are concerned that the proposed Taylor Hall visitors' center program would set up a parallel collection of archival materials on campus—causing confusion to researchers and visitors.

LMS remains steadfast in preserving the archival record of May 4 and making those materials widely available.

Mark Weber
Dean of Libraries and Media Services
Setting facts straight on May 4 archives

May 4 scholars have a long tradition of stealing credit for things they do not deserve credit for. I witnessed it time and time again as I interviewed them about the campus killings on May 4, 1970.

Unfortunately Mark Weber, dean of Libraries and Media Services, continued this tradition with his misleading Nov. 27 letter to the editor ("May 4 history is already preserved"). First, he claimed there was a May 4 Resource Library in the library system, when there was nothing in the library at that time. The library was reorganized, and the May 4 Resource Library was deleted.

To set the record straight, credit belongs primarily to Paul Keane, a Kent State alumnus and author of "Four Dead in Ohio." He interacted with Mark Weber's predecessors who did not want it, and then they tried to hide it away in a small out-of-the-way room on the first floor, where it was impossible to read the research papers of all four major authors of books on May 4. Again, Paul Keane, however, and other university officials such as Kent State alumni were the only ones who actually managed to lose the research papers of all four major authors of books on May 4. Weber has continued this tradition by writing misleading letters to the editor, instead of doing research to understand what it was all about.

Second, Weber suggested the archives is the thing in itself, rather than the historical material. The May 4 Resource Library, as it should be, or the way he would like it, became a museum. They are self-servingly offering their own history and claim to have the papers.

Now that I have had a chance to review the May 4 archives, I realize what they are and what he and other university officials should have done was show the task force the truth.

The artifacts the task force claims are valuable are not really artifacts from the shootings, newspaper headlines or legal/ historical documents created after the fact. They are self-servingly offering their own history and their own version of the events.

I firmly believe that the artifacts do not help anyone, but rather obscure the truth. I have not made a final decision on the May 4 Archives, but I firmly believe that the May 4 Archives are not what they should be, or the way he would like it.

Third, Weber reacted to the task force's proposal for a resource room by bemoaning the legacy of 'циидом tpeamally. He reacted like a threatened animal, always protective of his turf.

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I firmly believe that the artifacts do not help anyone, but rather obscure the truth. I have not made a final decision on the May 4 Archives, but I firmly believe that the May 4 Archives are not what they should be, or the way he would like it.

Third, Weber reacted to the task force's proposal for a resource room by bemoaning the legacy of 'циидом tpeamally. He reacted like a threatened animal, always protective of his turf.

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