38th Annual May 4th Commemoration

Saturday, May 3, 2008:

**Poetry Reading**
6:30pm, KIVA
The winners of the May 4th Poetry Contest share their winning poems.

**Born on the Fourth of July**

*with Special Appearance by: Ron Kovic*
7:00pm, KIVA
Watch the movie *Born on the Fourth of July* with a special introduction and Q & A with its inspiration, wounded Vietnam veteran Ron Kovic.

**Annual Candlelight March**
10:30pm, Commons (March begins at 11pm)
Join us for this silent, solemn march. It is approximately 1.3 miles long and is wheelchair and stroller accessible.

Sunday, May 4, 2008

**Annual Silent Candlelight Vigil**
Midnight-12:24am, Prentice Parking Lot
The Annual Silent Vigil will be held through the night in the Prentice Parking Lot. Participants stand for half hour shifts. To reserve your space, please contact the May 4th Task Force

**38th Annual Commemoration**
Noon-2:30, Commons
Rain location: KSU Ballroom, Student Center

*Speakers Include:*
- **Scott Ritter**
  Former UN weapons inspector and peace activist
- **Ron Kovic**
  Wounded Vietnam veteran, inspiration for the movie *Born on the Fourth of July*
- **Emily Kunstler**
  Daughter of Bill Kunstler, attorney for May 4th families and wounded
- **Dean Kahler**
  Wounded at Kent State May 4, 1970
- **Joe Lewis**
  Wounded at Kent State May 4, 1970

**Special performances by:**
- Tropidelic and MC Translation

**Presentation of Eyes Wide Open Ohio:**
AFSC of Ohio

*All events funded by Undergraduate Student Fees*

May 4 Task Force, Box 49, CSI, Kent State University, Kent, OH 44240, (330) 672-3096
http://dept.KENT.edu/May4
It's time to pass the torch

Kent State may be typically thought of as a campus of 23,000 students in Northeast Ohio, but in reality, it encompasses a network of alumni and friends crisscrossing the United States.

The truth of that statement became evident in the past month as four key members of the Kent State family passed away: education professor Robert Zuckerman, major university donor Olga Mural, Clemon "Willie" Boston, director of equal opportunity and affirmative action, and Robert "Robby" Stamps, a student wounded May 4, 1970.

These are not just people who passed through Kent for a fleeting moment on their way to bigger and better achievements. These are four individuals who we can truly say embodied Kent State's slogan "excellence in action."

Education professor Robert Zuckerman, 60, served as an adviser for the Education Learning Community and always made a special point to connect with freshmen. He believed the sooner students became involved with campus activities, the more likely they were to persist through graduation.

We couldn't agree more. His good intentions complemented the university's efforts to increase freshmen retention rates, which currently hover around 72 percent. But somehow we doubt his efforts were motivated by ratios and percents found in administrative spread-sheets.

It is clear based on student reaction in the KentNewsNet.com story about his death that Zuckerman put words into action, helping a countless number of students. We can only hope that his death will inspire other faculty and staff members to do the same.

Olga Mural may not have been as visible on-campus as Zuckerman, but her impact helped students in similar ways. As one of the university's largest donors, she gave nearly $5 million to Kent State. Her generosity led to the creation of her namesake Olga A. Mural Baseball Field and Founders Scholarships.

We hear it all the time: Higher education — now more than ever — needs support from private fundraising. Scholarships, in particular, help attract and keep students at Kent State where they can receive a university education.

The university community needs to embrace and thank donors like Mural. Without them, a higher education would not be possible for many students.

During his time at Kent State, Clemon "Willie" Boston, director of equal opportunity and affirmative action, championed another worthy cause: diversity. He had recently joined the Commission on Inclusion.

Kent State has made diversity a key initiative in the past year. Hence, the university should make finding someone to fill Boston's important position a top priority — someone who, like Boston, will promote diversity both inside and outside of the office.

The death of Robert "Robby" Stamps two weeks ago hit newspapers nationwide, marking the second death among the nine students wounded when the National Guard opened fire on students May 4. His legacy, however, should not become just another relic in news archives.

After all, he would want people to remember.

In an interview with the Daily Kent Stater last year, Stamps expressed concern for what he viewed as a lack of support for the surviving wounded students, with so much emphasis placed on commemorating the four students killed May 4. In addition, the practically nonexistent student-led activism against the current Iraq War discouraged him.

His message should serve as a reminder to all students: Remember May 4. Remember the surviving wounded students. And, as cliché as it might sound, remember to fight for what you believe in.

These four members of Kent State's family will certainly be missed. The university community has clearly benefited from their presence. We look forward to seeing who will follow in their great example.

The above editorial is the consensus of the Summer Kent Stater editorial board, whose names appear to the left.
Robby Stamps to be honored at weekend service

May 4 victim died this summer

Nicole Stempak
Daily Kent Stater

Former classmates and friends will gather at a memorial for Robert "Robby" Stamps, one of the nine students wounded May 4, 1970, at 3:30 p.m. tomorrow in the Governance Chambers.

Stamps died of pneumonia in early June but battled with Lyme disease for several years. He is the second student wounded May 4 to pass away.

John Powers, president of the May 4 Task Force, said part of the group's mission is to educate others about what happened.

"Unfortunately, those opportunities are becoming less and less with losing Robby Stamps this year and Jim Russell last year," he said.

All but one of the surviving May 4 wounded and Jim Russell's family plan to attend.

Alan Canfora, who was also wounded and is a May 4 Task Force founding member, said although Stamps has passed, he will not be forgotten.

"We want to pause and pay our respects to our fellow brother, Robby Stamps," Canfora said, especially because Stamps was a student and professor at Kent State. "He loved Kent State University, and his name will be forever talked about with May 4."

Following the memorial, attendees will walk to the site where Stamps was wounded carrying candles and memory stones.

Contact student politics reporter Nicole Stempak at nstempak@kent.edu.
Deaths:

Kent State’s community is more than just the 23,000 students walking across campus every day. We were reminded of that when the university lost many members of its extended family over the last few months.

Clémen “Willie” Boston
Boston was the director of affirmative action who contributed to the Commission on Inclusion. He was 51 years old.

Art and Margaret Herrick
The Herricks donated more than $2.4 million to the university, and the couple died within days of one another.

Larry Hugenberg
Hugenberg, professor of communications studies, died during surgery and had a love for pop culture. He was 55 years old.

Olga Mural
Mural was known as one of the university’s most generous donors, who donated her house to create Founders Scholarships. She donated nearly $5 million to the university. She was 86 years old.

Olaf Prüfer
Prüfer, a professor of anthropology, was known as the premier authority in Ohio archaeology. He worked at Kent State for 41 years. He was 77 years old.

Robby Stamps
Stamps, who was shot in the lower back on May 4, 1970, was the second of the nine wounded students to die. He was 57 years old. Jim Russell, another victim and first to die, died unexpectedly of a heart attack last summer.

Robert Zuckerman
Zuckerman was an associate professor of education who made helping freshmen fit in a top priority. He was 60 years old.

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Task Force celebrates life of May 4 victim

Bo Gemmell
Daily Kent Stater

While thousands crowded into Dix Stadium Saturday to cheer on the football team, about 30 people met in the Student Center to celebrate the life of May 4 victim Robert “Robby” Stamps.

Six of the seven remaining people wounded on May 4 joined students and friends of Stamps. Stamps died June 11 at age 57 from pneumonia caused by Lyme Disease in Tallahassee, Fla.

John Powers, sophomore journalism major, said the football game might have taken away from the crowd, but most people who attend May 4 events do so regularly.

Powers, president of the May 4 Task Force, said Stamps was shot in the back while returning to his room in Leebrika Hall with a bag of pretzels.

“If the official recounting of why the guardsmen fired is accurate, the guardsmen must’ve been terrified of Robby and his pretzels,” he said.

Stamps and fellow survivors Alan Canfora and Dean Kahler founded the task force in 1975.

Canfora said he first met Stamps in the emergency room of Robinson Memorial Hospital after the shootings.

“He was very calm, very principled, and he knew that we were the victims of grave injustice,” Canfora said.

He said Stamps had strong political concerns and he “understood the abuse of power by the rich class.”

Canfora said he and the other wounded students grew close during the 14-week civil trial that followed the shootings.

“He shed his blood, he lived with us, he breathed with us,” Canfora said. “We got to know each other very well.”

Prior to the shootings, most of the victims never met.

“Other than Alan and I, none of us knew one another,” said Tom Grace, who was shot in the left heel. “It was quite random, so therefore, a bond in friendship really grew and emerged over time.”

Former student Bill Arthrell said he met Stamps, whom he called a huge Cleveland sports fan, a couple weeks before May 4. Arthrell, who also lived in Leebrika Hall, was involved in the “dog napalming protest” on April 22, 1970 with Stamps.

Angry crowds came to the protest after protesters spread rumors that they would napalm a dog during a protest. The protesters, who never intended to harm a dog, contrasted the crowd’s anger about the dog to its indifference toward the humans dying from napalm overseas.

To conclude the memorial, the speakers and audience members walked to the site where Stamps was wounded for a candlelight vigil.

Contact general assignment reporter Bo Gemmell at bgemmell@kent.edu