May 4th Weekend Events

May 3rd:
Panel: “Student Activism: Then and Now”
KIVA - 7:00pm

Candlelight Vigil
March: Meet at 11pm at Victory Bell
Standing Vigil: 12:00 midnight - 12pm noon (May 4th) in Prentice Lounge/Parking Lot

May 4th:
Book Signing
Kent State Book Store - 10:00am to 11:00am

“May We Forever Stand: Long Live the Memory of Kent and Jackson State”
Kent State Commons (Rain Location: Ballroom) - 12:00pm - 2:30pm
49th Annual Commemoration, featuring a Keynote Speech by J. Kavin Ross

Bob Woodward
KSU Memorial Athletic and Convocation Center - 7:00pm, Registration Required

John McCutcheon
Kent Stage - 8:00pm (Doors at 7pm), Tickets $25
May We Forever Stand

Long Live the Memory of Kent and Jackson State

1970 - 2019
Legendary Journalist Bob Woodward to Speak at Kent State on May 4

**UPDATED 4/1/19: Originally scheduled for the Kent Student Center Ballroom, please note that this event has been moved ([/kent/news/kent-state-event-bob-woodward-moves-larger-venue-more-tickets-available](/kent/news/kent-state-event-bob-woodward-moves-larger-venue-more-tickets-available) to the Memorial Athletic and Convocation Center (MAC Center).**

He has reported on nine U.S. presidencies, immersing himself in their decision-making, priorities, wars and economic policy. He has won nearly every American journalism award including two Pulitzers, and he has authored or co-authored 19 best-selling books – 13 of which have been No. 1, more than any contemporary nonfiction writer.

On Saturday, May 4, legendary journalist Bob Woodward comes to Kent State University as part of the Presidential Speaker Series. He will speak at 7 p.m. at the Memorial Athletic and Convocation Center (MAC Center). His presentation coincides with the annual commemoration events marking May 4, 1970, when a student protest against the Vietnam War and the presence of Ohio National Guardsmen ended in tragedy. Guardsmen shot and killed four Kent State students and wounded nine others.

“Bob Woodward is one of the most influential and well-known journalists of our times,” said Kent State President Beverly J. Warren. “Mr. Woodward’s insights on the Richard Nixon presidency and the Kent State shootings, which President Nixon said were among the darkest days of his presidency, are of particular interest to our Kent State community.”

Mr. Woodward gained international attention when he and Carl Bernstein reported on Watergate. Together, their work won a Pulitzer Prize for The Washington Post, and their book, “All the President’s Men,” became a No. 1 national best-seller in the spring and summer before President Nixon resigned in 1974. Their book was turned into a movie in 1976, with Robert Redford portraying Mr. Woodward and Dustin Hoffman portraying Mr.
Bernstein. In listing the all-time 100 best nonfiction books, Time magazine has called "All the President's Men" by Mr. Woodward and Mr. Bernstein "perhaps the most influential piece of journalism in history."

Mr. Woodward was the lead reporter for The Washington Post's articles on the aftermath of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, which won a Pulitzer Prize in 2002.

Currently, he is associate editor for The Washington Post, where he has worked since 1971.

During his speech at Kent State, Mr. Woodward will consider the events of 1969 and the Vietnam War leading up to Cambodia. He will also reflect on President Nixon's quote that "the few days after Kent State were among the darkest of my presidency."

Award-winning journalist Jeff St. Clair will serve as master of ceremonies and will moderate a question-and-answer session on stage with Mr. Woodward following his remarks. Mr. St. Clair is the local host of NPR's "All Things Considered" on WKSU, which is co-sponsoring Mr. Woodward's appearance at Kent State.

"WKSU is so proud to support this event," said WKSU Executive Director and General Manager Wendy Turner. "From his early days, Bob Woodward reshaped and refocused investigative journalism. Mr. Woodward's journalistic power is discovering – and reporting – the truth. His work inspires a new generation of journalists to persevere in this noble profession."

TICKETS

Presidential Speaker Series events are free and open to the public. However, a ticket is required for admission.

ACCESS FREE TICKETS AND EVENT INFORMATION (/PRESIDENT/SPEAKERSERIES)

ABOUT THE KENT STATE UNIVERSITY PRESIDENTIAL SPEAKER SERIES

The Kent State University Presidential Speaker Series seeks to bring high-profile, world-renowned experts to Kent State for serious, thought-provoking discussions and conversations. Previous speakers include Nobel Peace Prize winner Elie Wiesel,
journalist Dan Rather, filmmaker Ken Burns, and journalists and human rights advocates Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn.

**ABOUT WKSU**

WKSU is an award-winning public radio station and service of Kent State University that broadcasts to 22 counties in Northeast Ohio from the station's primary signal at 89.7. WKSU content can also be heard over WKRW 89.3 (Wooster), WKRJ 91.5 (Dover/New Philadelphia), WKSV 89.1 (Thompson), WNRK 90.7 (Norwalk), W239AZ 95.7 (Ashland) and W234CX 94.7 (Mansfield). The station adds WKSU-2 Folk Alley, WKSU-3 The Classical Channel and WKSU-4 The News Channel over HD Radio and as streaming audio at [www.wksu.org](https://www.wksu.org), through the WKSU mobile and on smart speakers.
Kent State to Gather for 49th Annual May 4 Commemoration, Host Renowned Journalist Bob Woodward

Nearly a century ago, residents of the Greenwood homes district of Tulsa, Oklahoma, endured one of the darkest days in our country's history. According to news reports, a single day of race riots in May 1921 ended with as many as 300 dead and 1,000 homes destroyed.

J. Kavin Ross, an advocate for the research and review of the incident, will serve as keynote speaker for Kent State's 49th commemoration of the historic events of May 4, 1970, where protesting students, observers and soldiers gathered on that fateful day when the Ohio National Guard shot and killed four students and wounded nine others on the Kent Campus.

Mr. Ross, CEO of KAVISION, calls Tulsa home, having grown up in the area known as the Black Wall Street of America. He is a graduate of Booker T. Washington High School and the University of Tulsa, and his work includes the identification of all individuals killed and families directly impacted by the Tulsa Race Riots.

Mr. Ross is related to Don Ross, former State Sen. of Oklahoma who, along with State Sen. Maxine Horner, is credited with bringing national attention to the buried history.

Bob Woodward to Provide Insight Into Vietnam War, President Nixon's Comments About Kent State

On May 4 at 7 p.m., legendary journalist Bob Woodward will appear at Kent State's Memorial Athletic and Convocation Center (MAC Center) as part of the Presidential Speaker Series. His presentation coincides with annual May 4 Commemoration events.

Mr. Woodward is currently the associate editor for The Washington Post, where he has worked since 1971. He was the lead reporter for The Washington Post's articles on the aftermath of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, which won a Pulitzer Prize in 2002.

During his speech at Kent State, Mr. Woodward will consider the events of 1969 and the Vietnam War leading up to Cambodia. He will also reflect on President Richard Nixon's quote that "the few days after Kent State were among the darkest of my presidency."
Presidential Speaker Series events are free and open to the public. However, a ticket is required for admission. To request tickets, visit here (https://ksuevents.universitytickets.com/w/event.aspx?id=1335&cid=168&p=1).

A series of free, public events have been organized by the May 4 Task Force and other campus organizations, the May 4 Visitors Center and the university. All of the events will be held on the university's Kent Campus.

**May 3**

At 7 p.m. in the Kent Student Center Kiva, the May 4 Task Force presents a panel discussion titled "Student Activism: Then and Now." The event features two student activists along with Howie Emmer, who was an original member of Kent State's Students for a Democratic Society (SDS), and E. Timothy Moore, professor emeritus in Kent State's Department of Pan-African Studies and a former member of Black United Students (BUS).

At 11 p.m., the annual candlelight walk and vigil will begin on the Kent State Commons. Organized by the May 4 Task Force, the march will begin at the Victory Bell and will continue around campus, concluding at the Prentice Hall parking lot, where lighted markers indicate where the four victims – Allison Krause, Jeffrey Miller, Sandra Scheuer and William Schroeder – were killed. The candle bearers will then start the vigil that will continue throughout the night until the commemoration begins at noon on Friday.

**May 4**

From 10-11 a.m., Kent State’s May 4 Visitors Center and the Kent State University Bookstore present a book-signing event with several authors who have written about May 4. The event will be held in the bookstore, which is located in the Kent Student Center. This year's participating authors are:

- Barbara Child (“Memories of a Vietnam Veteran”).
- Laura Davis (“This We Know: A Chronology of the Shootings at Kent State, May 1970” and “Democratic Narrative, History and Memory”).
- Susan Erenrich (“Grassroots Leadership and the Arts for Social Change”)

Sabrina Fedel (“Leaving Kent State”).

Thomas M. Grace (“Kent State: Death and Dissent in the Long Sixties”).


Miriam Jackson (“We Shall Not Be Moved: The May 4th Coalition, the ‘Gym Struggle’ at Kent State University of 1977 and the Question of Ultimate National Control of the Vietnam Era”).

Jason Prufer (“Small Town, Big Music: The Outsized Influence of Kent, Ohio, on the History of Rock and Roll”).

Tom Riddle (“Cambodia and the Year of UNTAC: Life and Love in Cambodia’s 1993 Election”).

At noon, the commemoration, organized by the May 4 Task Force, begins on the Kent State Commons and includes a keynote speech by Mr. Ross along with remarks from Kent State President Beverly J. Warren, speeches on behalf of the four students who were killed and the ringing of the Victory Bell.

At 7 p.m., the Presidential Speaker Series event featuring Mr. Woodward takes place in the MAC Center.

**May 4 Visitors Center Hours**

The May 4 Visitors Center will be open during the week of Commemoration. Using images, artifacts and multimedia, the May 4 Visitors Center’s exhibits tell the story of the decade leading up to May 4, 1970, the events of that day, the aftermath and the historical impact. It is located in Taylor Hall.

Visitors to the May 4 Visitors Center can see its newest exhibition, "Bill: An All-American Boy (\[kent/news/kent-state-may-4-visitors-center-celebrates-life-bill-all-american-boy-exhibition\])," which honors Mr. Schroeder’s life. His sister, Nancy Tuttle, and nephew, David Tuttle, helped create the exhibition by loaning some of his personal items to the May 4 Visitors Center.

“Bill: An All-American Boy” is the third in a series of exhibitions in tribute to the four
lives lost on May 4, 1970. The purpose behind these exhibitions is to focus not just on the deaths of these students, but on the lives that they lived and the people who they were.

Hours for the May 4 Visitors Center will be:

- Thursday, May 2: 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
- Friday, May 3: 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
- Saturday, May 4: 9 a.m.-noon; 2:30-5:30 p.m.

Additional Information

For more information about the May 4 Task Force, visit its Facebook page (https://www.facebook.com/May-4th-Task-Force-26354851249/).

For more information about the May 4 Visitors Center, visit www.kent.edu/may4visitorscenter (/may4visitorscenter).

For more information about the Presidential Speaker Series, visit www.kent.edu/president/speakerseries (/president/speakerseries).

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Photo Caption:
Photographs of the four Kent State University students killed on May 4, 1970, sit on the stage in the Kent Student Center Ballroom during the annual May 4 Commemoration.

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