

Background

- Among the chaos of a foreign country lies the chaos of American society. The most controversial events cry out for viewer attention and demand public eyes. A confliction arises when reports on the same event yield different information. The Kent State University shooting of 1970 serves as a key scenario, a lack of clarity and constant shift in blame makes for a foggy situation. When the smoke clears, one can only wonder what transpired. When a shooting as controversial as this occurs, many outlets will voice an opinion. This project aims to examine collegiate journalism through the analysis of published newsprint on Kent State. Research on the student media perspective is conducted through exploration of university newspapers.

Research Questions

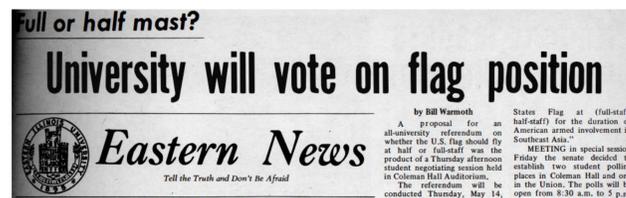
- Going into this research project, there were many different questions and perspectives to consider:
 - Would college media be more bias when covering the incident?
 - Which perspectives will be documented in the college newspapers?
 - What actions would be taken by these universities?
 - Would the more prestigious university yield different information?
 - Would the region itself play a role in how the reports are reflected?
 - Would universities and their students support each other in the matter?
 - Would there be inaccuracies and contradictions?

Method and Materials

- Approaching this project, five collegiate newspapers were examined:
 - *Daily Eastern News* (Charleston, IL)
 - *Daily Illini* (Champaign-Urbana, IL)
 - *Red and Black* (Athens, GA)
 - *Cornell Daily Sun* (Ithaca, NY)
 - *Ohio State Lantern* (Columbus, OH)
- Since the shooting took place in Ohio, it made sense to target the states around it. When it came to choosing university papers, certain states were chosen along with a corresponding school.
- Kent State's student newspaper was suspended and out of commission following the shooting. Three hours after the Ohio National Guard opened fire, the university shut down for six weeks.
- Primary sources provide the best and most authentic reflection of past historical events. With that in mind, diving into collegiate newspapers would yield the most authentic results.
- All the newspapers analyzed were published within the same month and year as the shooting.
- When examining the newspapers, the goal was to look for information on or related to the shooting.



BACK OFF—This National Guardsman orders students blocking the entrance of Denney Hall to stand aside and let non-striker go to class.



March for slain at Kent

by Jeff Nelson

Chanting, "We march for peace," 500 to 600 students marched without incident by the light of hand-held candles Thursday evening in memory of four students who were slain at Kent (Ohio) College and in protest of the U.S. entrance into Cambodia.

Following a day and one half of relatively violence-free activities and seminars, students met by pre-arranged agreement in front of Booth Library where one of the organizers of the march, John Metcalf, told the NEWS that the Student Senate had called the march, but:

"IN THE absence of our student leaders, concerned students decided to lead the march. We have parade marshals from the Brownridge Institute of Karate to preserve order in the interest of nonviolence."

The Brownridge Institute of Karate is headed by senior Dave Brownridge and members of the institute were identified by white headbands.

The Student Senate was meeting at the time of the march, however a few members did come out and address the crowd.

SENATOR, Carl Greeson, former student body president, told the crowd he was "enthused" by the number of students in attendance and "hoped that they would carry out the ideals of peace, love and freedom for all men."

Greeson noted that while senators couldn't join the march they "were with them in heart and mind."

As a prelude to the march, Metcalf told marchers of events around the country, noting that at 7 p.m. Wednesday 136 colleges were officially closed and 336 were on strike.

JUNIOR history major, Joe Howard then addressed the

Results

- Certain universities were more bias than others while some were more neutral than others.
- This most likely had to do with the region in which the universities were located.
- The more conservative and Southern university (University of Georgia) seems to have sided with the guards. There was also a lot of conflict and disagreement between the students and staff.
- Cornell, the more prestigious university, had the most neutral and un-bias reports.
- *The Daily Illini* had the earliest report out of all the newspapers, only 1 day after the shooting
 - But due to this, there were some minor inaccuracies and contradictions in the descriptions.
- Despite being in the same state as the shooting, Ohio State's student newspaper was surprisingly neutral. It did provide more details and insight to the shooting.
- Beyond reports of the shooting, the newspapers also reported on the student protests and movements taking place on the campuses.
- There were a lot of mentions of Nixon.

Conclusion

- There were many similar but also different angles to the shooting at Kent State. The results of this research project showed that different universities held altering stances on the shooting. This was seemingly due to the political nature of the universities. Because different regions hosted differing opinions, so too did their corresponding universities. Students, staff, and faculty all contributed to their respective universities' views.
- Out of the five universities, two were more liberal in nature, one was more conservative, and two were seemingly neutral.
- Location of the universities and date of the reports contribute to the accuracy/tone in the reports.

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