

# Kenyon College

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The Kenyon Collegian

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## Kenyon Collegian - May 19, 1970

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**The Kenyon Collegian May 19, 1970**



PROFESSOR Eugen Kullmann addresses the community.

## Kenyon's Actions In Retrospect

In the aftermath of the Kent State tragedy, the Kenyon community responded in a manner unlike the common reaction that swept most of the other college campuses in the country.

In general community meetings held at Rosse Hall, discussion was lively and thought-provoking concerning the course of action that the community should take. The decisions were made with surprising unanimity after these lengthy debates, and they involved many different things. Telegrams were sent, ads were put in newspapers, a march was organized and changed, a local mobilization committee was set up, and a supplemental program of seminars and convocations was created in addition to the regular college schedule.

The Tuesday morning assembly, preceded by a silent march from Old Kenyon to the steps of Rosse Hall, grief and desire for action.

## Faculty Modifies Plan

by Eric Watrous and Dennis Pojani

Rich Brean, of the class of 1970, has the distinction of having been one of the first Kenyon students to attend a meeting of the faculty. He was one of a group of eight students which also included Joel Marks, Clark Dougan, Hal Griffith, Bob Strong, Barb Gates, Patti Eanet, and Joan Silverman.

The faculty and students were called together as a result of action taken by an assembly of the Kenyon Community on May 7. At that time, the assembly endorsed the Brean-Marks proposal, which called for the suspension of exams, for those wishing it, and the formation of symposia as a substitute. From there the proposal was taken to a specially-called Faculty meeting.

During the faculty meeting, the eight student representatives presented the proposal and answered questions directed to them by the faculty about it. After one and a half hours of discussion, the faculty decided to call a closed meeting for the next day in order to debate the issue among themselves and vote on it. The faculty decided to form a compromise proposal at that time, which was accepted after debate. This proposal modified the students' views by moving the calendar back, to include

convocations and seminars from May 11 through May 16, and making course exams optional for seniors only, with comprehensives remaining as usual. Many professors, however, through their own free will, lessened the burden concerning finals.

According to Brean, the students were very cordially received by the faculty, as evidenced by the standing ovation which they were given. Although faculty opinion ranged from "business as usual" to complete acceptance of the student proposal, most opinions fell somewhere between the two extremes. He praised the faculty for their "sincerity and interest in the student welfare."

Although Brean supported the faculty proposal, he held some reservations about it, commenting that, "A longer period of supplementary programs, say three weeks, would have been better. But this was the best compromise we could come up with." He also expressed fear that finals would interfere with participation in the convocations and seminars, limiting their effectiveness due to the students' lack of time for preparation. When asked whether he felt the solution of the faculty com-

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opened with speeches from several students and faculty members stating their

Community actions that were decided upon in the Tuesday morning session included the sending of a telegram to President Nixon condemning the use of force and violence on college campuses, both by radical students and administrative sources.

The idea of placing advertisements in two Ohio newspapers (the CLEVELAND PLAIN DEALER and the COLUMBUS DISPATCH) was brought up and caught fire immediately. Although the expense seemed insurmountable (\$1,758 was needed for both), both individuals and campus organizations chipped in quickly in order to make the ads possible. The ads appeared in the May 8 PLAIN DEALER and the May 9 DISPATCH. The final action of the day was the first attempt to mobilize the Mt. Vernon community, when many students distributed leaflets over town calling for more participation in the political process by writing their Congressman and Senators.

The next meeting of the college community was called on Thursday afternoon with three specific purposes in mind: informing the community on the status of the newspaper ads, the plans for a march on Columbus and Ohio Governor James Rhodes, and determining the course of action that the community should take. The money drive for the ads was deemed successful, and the ads went ahead as scheduled. Prolonged

discussion on the subject of a demonstration in Columbus produced many misgivings over the possibility of violence, something everyone wanted to avoid. So instead of a large student march, the community passed a resolution in favor of having President Caples request a meeting between Governor Rhodes and delegations of Ohio college presidents, faculty, and students.

The Jackson State killings elicited the same concern from the community as the Kent slayings, but a different course of action was taken. In another college meeting last Friday evening a telegram was sent to Ohio Senator William Saxbe, but the crowd wanted more tangible action. So in lieu of more telegrams, ads, etc., money began to be raised in order to help pay for the medical and legal fees of the Jackson and Kent State students involved in the incidents. Again, money was sent out immediately to Jackson State by passing the hat among the audience. Other means of fund raising were also discussed.

The action taken by the community in keeping Kenyon open and establishing special seminars and convocations during Reading Week was an acknowledgment that the community should not be silenced by closing while realizing the need to continue with something other than "business as usual." Although the faculty resolution was a disappointment to many, it was generally agreed on as the best course available.



ROSSE HALL Community gathering recites poem of dedication in the Thursday afternoon session.

## Rhodes Refuses Caples Visit

by Liesel Friedrich

President William G. Caples has been trying since May 7 to organize a delegation of Ohio college presidents, faculty and students to visit Governor Rhodes. At the same time, he has also been trying to arrange a personal visit with the Governor.

President Caples has contacted every college and university in Ohio, fifteen of which agreed to accompany him. However, Caples has been unable to make an appointment to see the Governor.

Caples has suggested that, in addition to Rhodes' annoyance at Kenyon's newspaper ads, the Governor's refusal to see the delegation may be allied to his recent election defeat.

In a letter to William Chadeayne, attorney in Columbus for the Kenyon Corporation, Mr. John McElroy, executive assistant to Rhodes, said:

"I talked with Governor Rhodes about the request of President Caples for an appointment . . . You were not able to specify the subject matter to be discussed but it seems likely it would embrace the same topics that so many people are talking about these days before getting the facts.

"The Governor understands that many college presidents, either from conviction or a pacifying device, are telling their students that they will get action in promoting the ends sought by the students. He would like to help them with



their own image with their student bodies and faculties, but can not see that it would be useful to have the kind of meeting requested until the official reports are in on the Kent State University episodes covering the first four days of this month."

Caples is considering stepping out of the delegation if it might help in getting an appointment. He does not want to talk about Kent State in particular; he feels that Kent State is just a symptom in a larger problem--that of communication.

Mr. Caples is planning to continue his attempt to get an appointment with Governor Rhodes for the delegation; he feels that communication is very important because he realizes that "like it or not, in the next twenty years, the students will be running the show."

## Profs Give Views On Seminars

by Linda Urban

Members of the Kenyon faculty expressed ambivalent attitudes to the success of last week's seminars. Opinions ranged from, "I really was impressed by the initiative of the students and feel that much was gained through the opportunity of interaction" to "I was very disappointed by the response of both the faculty and the students; at the most, the seminars were merely interesting talk-sessions."

Mr. Marcus, who conducted the "Claim to Privacy" seminar, regarded the seminars as "very effective considering the limited time involved in constructing them." The time factor, he felt, limited the seminars "to either a faculty initiated lecture or student bull session." It was his hope that next year better plan-

## Black Students Issue Statement

Due to lack of space, the entire statement by the Kenyon Black Student Union is not printed here. The entire proposal will be available later this week for all members of the community.

This is our statement to the faculty and the Kenyon community. The attempt is made here to present our grievances and what we feel is the appropriate action for the collegium to endorse. As a result of the recent dialogue and this proposal, we hope to keep the lines of communication open between Black Students and the Kenyon community.

Roland D. Parson, Jr.

Chairman of the Black Student Union

The Black Student Union of Kenyon College hereby proposes the following immediate improvements in racial understanding and human dignity at Kenyon College as a liberal arts institution. What we now present are programs which can be and should be instituted immediately.

(1) Establishment, in the departments of English and Drama, of courses which deal with the Black experience in America.

- (2) Continuation of courses which deal with the Black experience in America in the areas of History and Political Science,
- (3) Establishment of a Black Student Center,
- (4) Assigning of Black upper-class counselors for all incoming Black freshmen, and
- (5) Permanent institution of a representative from the Black Student Union as a full member of the Admissions and Scholarship Committees.

We are instituting these proposals only as a part and start to the resolution of the present racial incongruities here at Kenyon. In order for Kenyon College to continue in the tradition of the liberal arts program, it is NOW necessary for the administration, the faculty, and the student body to realize that they are faced with an IMMEDIATE problem which threatens the very idea of a liberal arts education.

## Want Action?

I have heard that some of you would like to DO something. Well, the Political Science Department of the University of Rochester has started a petition in an attempt to get 20,000,000 signatures and 10,000,000 dollars so that peace candidates in this November's election will be able to get on prime time television.

We have copies of the petition; the idea is that when you go home you spend a Saturday or two canvassing. All information concerning it can be obtained throughout the next two weeks from Steve Gittleston, Chris Finch, David Jaffe and Julie Miller. Those of you who are wondering just how much we can do in Rosse Hall might be interested. We will have a few copies for each student who requests them.

It will certainly be cathartic, and is professionally enough run that it just might work.

Chris Finch



APPROXIMATELY 40 Kenyon students participated in the May 16 Washington rally. Temperatures ranged in the high 80's causing about 200 of the estimated 175,000 marchers to seek relief in the Washington Mounment Reflection Pool.

There were a few isolated incidents of violent action, none of which resulted in great damage or personal injury. Most of the time was spent listening to the rally's program of speakers. Tricia Nixon was on hand to welcome the marchers to Washington for the Administration.

Photo by Herbst

# "Mobe" Group Seeks Community Interaction

by Tom Stamp

The Kenyon Community experienced a feeling of involvement with the outside world unequalled in its recent history in the aftermath of last week's bloodshed at Kent State University. But there was apprehension on the part of many members of the community as to just how long this feeling of involvement could be sustained. It was this apprehension turned into a constructive force by a few members of the community which resulted in the formation of the Mount Vernon Mobilization Committee.

The Mobilization Committee, now known as the "Mobe," was founded by Bill Corwin, Paul Keiner and Jay Trevororrow, who soon gained assistance from Barry Dierenfeld, Bob Gillett, Bill Koller and Karl Rutan. The announced purpose of the organization was to draw the Mount Vernon community and Kenyon College closer together. Corwin proclaimed that the "Mobe's" ultimate objective is an "upward progress" to make the community an effective force in local, state and national governments.

The "Mobe" intends to achieve its ends in three stages, the first being to get the people of Mount Vernon to accept the Kenyon students; the second being to establish trust for the Kenyon students in the community, and the third being to get the people of Mount Vernon to realize the futility of the war in Southeast Asia. In order to accomplish their three objectives, the group has planned activities which will "develop an awareness," according to Corwin, both in Mount Vernon and at Kenyon. He feels that the convocations and seminars which the college have planned are good, but he feels they are only an extension of the curriculum. His belief that the situation demanded special, more direct action motivated him to become one of the "Mobe's" founders.

In order to introduce themselves to the community and to try to elicit some response from it, the "Mobe's" first activity took place in twenty-two area churches, where groups of students spoke to the congregations. The group next took to the streets of Mount Vernon. Booths were set up on the sidewalks and manned by students, who talked with the townspeople and urged them to com-

municate their feelings on current issues to Senator Saxbe and Representative Ashbrook. As in the evening's door-to-door canvassing, stamped addressed post cards were provided by the "Mobe". The reaction of the Mount Vernon citizens was, for the most part, favorable, and indicated that they are willing to talk with and listen to Kenyon students.

For the future, the "Mobe" is now concentrating on three major projects. The first is a "Prayer for Peace" in Mount Vernon's Public Square, being planned in conjunction with "Interfaith", a group of ministers from the Mount Vernon community. The two groups are trying to get the community as a whole organized behind them, including not only adults and college students, but high school students as well.

A "Blood Drive" is the group's second major project. The blood which is donated will be used in the treatment of wounded soldiers in Southeast Asia. The members of the "Mobe" feel this will be an effective protest, since it will show that they support human life, but not war. The third major project is the formulation of a statement of the economic process in relationship to the war which can be used as a guideline for further future activities.

Other goals of the "Mobe" include paving the way for drug and draft education in Mount Vernon, showing support for

Mrs. Mary Hogan's efforts to organize a chapter of NAACP in the community, and campaigning for political candidates John Gilligan and Hood. The group would also like to establish a placement service through which they could encourage students to work for those candidates in their home communities and states who most closely represent the students' views. The hope for the implementation of such a program is based on the firm belief that political campaigns are won during the summer months, when the students can ring doorbells and talk with people.

At present, the "Mobe" is only loosely organized, and the leaders are self-appointed. They are willing to accept help from the members of either community, and are making a special plea for help from Kenyon's underclassmen.

## Faculty

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mittee to be in keeping with the spirit of the Kenyon Community which motivated the original student proposal, Brean replied, "I guess it was, but the net result may be to destroy that community by throwing it back to 'business as usual'."



MOBILIZATION COMMITTEE elicits petition signatures and distributes post-cards to Mount Vernon townspeople.



DIALOGUE between students and local residents was a chief goal of week's events.

Contributions to this special issue of the Collegian were made by: Larry Barr, Chris Finch, Lionel Friedrich, Dennis Pejani, John Ryessan, W. Roger Scott, Paula Siegel, Ronald Smith, Tom Stamp, Art Underwood, Linda Urban, Eric Watrous.

Photography: Tom Baley, Sam Barone, Chip Herbst.

Editor: Sam Barone.

## Mixed Reactions Found In Town

### Students Tell Sentiments

by W. Roger Scott

There was certainly no correlation by age in reaction to the Mount Vernon Mobilization. At the information booth at Buckeye Mart, a couple of eighty-year-old farmers walked up to the group and snapped at them, "They should hang Nixon!" Linda Urban, who spoke at St. Luke's Church and canvassed door to door, noted that her worst response was from an eighteen-year-old crewcut boy who said that he backed the war entirely, could hardly wait to get to Viet Nam.

Twenty-two ministers accepted the invitation of the Mobilization Committee to speak at their churches Sunday, May 10. Tom Southworth was one of those to discuss the issues at the churches. One of the ministers told him that the forty-five minutes people stayed to talk was the longest any group had ever stayed after a service. Although not everyone agreed with the anti-war views of the representatives, they al-

most universally lauded the rational approach of the students and thought their actions did much to bring the Mount Vernon and Gambier communities closer together. Many asked them to come back.

The six information booths set up in the Mount Vernon area on Tuesday had varying results. John Quinter was surprised that he received the best reception from the farmers. "The townspeople were only about 50/50 in favor of what we were doing," he estimated, "but the farmers mostly supported us." Chuck Acton thought the appearance of the students threw off some of the people. "I wore a coat and tie," he said. "I talked for half an hour to one man who said he had just pushed aside another Kenyon student who had uncombed hair and was wearing old clothes. He said if I looked that way he'd do the same to me." As at the churches, however, the majority of the people were willing to listen and talk about the issues. Many booths ran out of post cards to Senator Saxbe and Congressman Ashbrook; most had many signatures on the petition supporting the Hatfield-McGovern Bill to end the war.

Rain hampered the door to door canvassing that night. Nevertheless, the response was, as Bill Bechtel recalled, "Tremendous!" There were, of course, those who saw sinister motives in the "Mobe." Liz Forman was originally to canvass in Danville, but the mayor of that town, perhaps through a misunderstanding, said that he would put everyone in jail who tried to canvass inside his jurisdiction. When she did canvass in Mount Vernon she said that many people thanked her for what she was doing. One woman invited her in for coffee and cake and another said she was proud of what Kenyon was doing.

Those who participated agreed that the "Mobe" was a success not only because it brought the views of Kenyon students before the Mount Vernon community, but because it gave students a better understanding of the community around them.

## Rational Approach Lauded

by Tom Stamp

Fred Lorey, editor of the Mount Vernon News, was interviewed Friday, May 15, to determine his views and what he felt to be the public views on the activities of the Mount Vernon Mobilization Committee to date. He believed the reaction of the Mount Vernon community to be "generally good," although he cited cases in which some of the townspeople were offended by the "argumentative" students. Other complaints concerned the students' negative attitude toward the Nixon administration.

However, Lorey felt that the majority of the people reacted favorably to Tuesday's activities, and welcomed the chance to talk with the Kenyon students who participated. He stated that he hoped the experience was beneficial from the students' point of view, allowing them to become aware of the townspeople's interest in Kenyon. Lorey went on to say that the relationship between the Mount Vernon and Kenyon communities

had been improved by the efforts of the Mobilization Committee, although he believes there is already more interest and good will for Kenyon than is recognized or appreciated.

One reason for the primarily positive reaction on the part of Mount Vernon's citizens was their satisfaction with Kenyon's rational approach to the issues which have precipitated the campus unrest, according to Lorey. He also stated that he believed attitudes had been "firmed up" in many people's minds by the recent violence, and the sanity which ruled Kenyon probably helped to make many Mount Vernon citizens more sympathetic to the students' point of view.

Lorey urged students to read the letters which the Mount Vernon News receives weekly from Representative Ashbrook in order to see the effects of the Mobilization Committee's post card campaign.