

On May 4, 1970, I was on the KSU campus, and witnessed the advance of the National Guard which resulted in several deaths.

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As I arrived at the area west of Johnson Hall, on the edge of the Commons, the National Guard was in a line at the bottom of the hill. Several hundred young people, presumably students, were standing on top of the hill between Taylor and Johnson, shouting and taunting the Guardsmen. On command, the Guardsmen started up the hill with fixed bayonets and weapons at the ready. Several paces behind them walked five men who had tear gas grenade launchers. They fired numerous rounds of tear gas into the crowd and also at those who were on the sides watching. The students dispersed as the Guard topped the hill. The Guardsmen were then momentarily out of my sight.

A few moments later, the gas squad came back down the hill and fired tear gas at two students ringing the victory bell. The Guardsmen went down to the bell and off to the north of it a few paces. Another student ran down and rang the bell, and the Guard fired a tear gas grenade at him.

At the top of the hill was one boy who was not taunting or in any way menacing the troops. He started to walk north, away from the area, when a Guardsman fired a tear gas grenade which landed at his feet. Guardsmen then advanced toward him. The student was apparently dazed by the gas, and he did not move away. Then one Guardsman rushed him and beat him unmercifully with a night stick. Along with several other men, I began running toward the Guardsman, pleading that he stop beating this helpless person. The Guard fired tear gas at us, and I turned and ran back toward Johnson.

As I reached the area between Taylor and Johnson I stopped. I saw the Guard with fixed bayonets and rifles at the crest of the hill facing down towards the Commons. Suddenly the Guard turned and, as a group, fired their rifles. It was a long volley. I assume each man fired more than once. Then they turned around and went back down the hill towards the Commons. They did not summon an ambulance or call for medical aid as they progressed down the hill in formation.

At this point a man in a tan coat and a camera around his neck came over the hill just north of Johnson Hall, heading down towards the Commons. Several seconds later, Bruce Vasbinder ran up to me and said "Stop that man! He killed someone!" Then two men, apparently faculty members, came over the hill saying "Stop that man!" Dick Siciliano and I started chasing the man and shouting "Stop him!" We chased him to the bottom of the hill where he was stopped by the Guard and apparently turned over to the State Patrol.

I joined the crowd at the south edge of the Commons. A few minutes later I walked up over the hill, where I saw a girl being put into an ambulance. I walked around for a while, looking at various evidence of the shooting. At no time did I see a uniformed military officer or any uniformed police officer investigate the shooting. I went down the hill and returned to the University School about 1:45 p.m.

Harold Carpenter
Assistant Professor of Education
University School

Home Address: 616 Edgewood Dr.,
Kent, Ohio 44240

This statement was dictated
on Monday, May 4, at 7 p.m.