

RETURN TO

*Shrocks Lutz*  
*609 Park Ave., Kent, O*



*Miss Patricia Lutz*  
*25 W. Globe Rd - A-21*  
*Alexandria, Va. 22305*



*Carlos - for Pat -*  
Tuesday, May 5, 1970

*"Statewide Battle of KSA"*

Dear Dave:

Well, I'm sure you know of the terrible thing that has put Kent on the map - worldwide - from all reports. Yes, I was at work - I was "on the scene" so to speak - when it happened. But we were sure all wishing we were not. It happened toward the end of our lunch hour. Several of us had not gone out to eat - actually, we were a little afraid to go out. We knew there was to be a rally at noon on the commons - even though they had been ordered not to have one. But you see, the events preceding this time were such that we knew an order would not mean a thing to this bunch of kids. It was plenty frightening.

The first trouble was last Friday night when they started a demonstration "to protest the President's 'widening the war' by going into Cambodia." I say - that no matter what the President had decided to do - and no matter if he had done nothing - they would have had their demonstration - on some pretense. Anyway - the Friday night deal seemed to be sort of spontaneous, from all reports. BUT, they came downtown and out of the blue, began to break store windows. Unbelievable - 47 store windows broken. I had heard sirens off and on all night - and couldn't figure why I kept waking up. Jim had been downtown until about 10 - and said he saw the start of it - but that it didn't look like much to him. He had left, he said - and was unaware that it had developed into the big deal that it had. Well, the story next morning was that they had carried on pretty badly - and had finally been forced back on campus and things had quieted down by 4 a.m. Yessir, the town stores were boarded up - Water St. and Main St. - 47 of them. What excuse could there be for that?

I had to go to work Sat. a.m. but a dead train on the Main St. crossing prevented my going thro on Main St. - so I went down to Crain - and didn't see all that till I came home. Things were quiet on campus Sat. a.m. But we were all pretty tense that night again when we began to hear the reports that the kids were stirred up again. Listening to the radio, we heard that they had set fire to the old Army ROTC building and were whooping it up pretty good. Our police had to call in for Sherriff and deputies and all. Cause when the firemen got there to try to put out the fire, the kids were cutting the hose and using their usual foul language, etc. Firemen had to leave and return with police escort. The building burned down, of course. The Governor sent in the National Guard then as rumors were flying that more burning was to be. The Gov himself came in and had a press conference and, it seems, stirred up the kids even more - saying it was going to be stopped. Fortunately, I think, the National Guard were already in the area - due to the truck strike, and they came in plenty quickly on Sat. night. Your stupid mother had to go out for milk - and got the car washed - and found myself going up fairly close - to see the campus under guard. I couldn't believe it - I had to see it. That was Sunday noon. Well, you wouldn't believe the traffic - everyone for miles around must have decided to come to Kent to see what was going on. I ended up having to drive miles around to get back home. I was almost sick till I got back home. I felt so stupid - and thinking about all those other stupid people.

Well, Sunday night was the first time they set a curfew, I think. Judy and Todd came over for supper, but had to leave before 8 p.m. And Jim had stayed home Sat night and did the same Sunday. He's about to go



stir-crazy now. But at least he has stayed away from it all, thank the Lord.

Well, I kept listening to the radio Sun. night and Monday morning, thinking they would say we should not come in to work - yes, I was that worried already. But no luck - so I went - as did everyone else. And it's a strange feeling to be greeted at the turn-in by guards - and we all had to park up on the hill - no one was allowed down in the tennis court area - close to the admn. building, you know. When I walked down, I could see why - it was filled with jeeps and trucks, etc. And, of course, there were tanks at some of the entrances, they tell me. It just doesn't seem possible - that a handful of students could tie up a whole town - (and later the whole county) - like that. The poor Natl. Guard had been on duty since Wed. And some of them were mighty tired already - they, too, were on 12 hour duty, I found when talking to one.

So we went to work - unbelievable. Guards at every door of every bldg.

Then came the noon hour - the dreadful noon hour. A few of the gals went over to the union and got a quick sandwich. Crowds began to gather out back - and we could see the additional troops being called on duty. Then there were riot squads marching down - to different areas - but all surrounding the commons. I ate my orange and then we decided to step outside at the end of the building and see what was happening, if we could. But we didn't venture any further. Stayed out there for about 15 minutes - and began to hear the rumors that there had been shooting - and that someone was killed. I prayed they were just rumors - till one man came by and said he had just helped load up some of the wounded. There had been much shooting. Then I got really scared and came inside and went up to the second floor - and you could really see the whole commons there. And that's the first time I got a look at the burned out ROTC bldg., too. Beyond that a line of N.G. were facing the architecture building up on the hill - they were just beyond the burned out bldg. The students were congregated a little to the right of the commons - and looked like about 500 of them - but as we watched - the gathering grew to more than twice that many. By that time some guards had come up there and said something about locking the doors. Well, we thought they were on their way down to lock the outside doors - but found out later that we were locked in upstairs. But the janitor showed us how to get back down to the first floor. When we got back in the office some of the younger girls were crying, and others were making sure the doors were locked and turned out the lights. We were trying to call the branches to tell them there would not be a faculty meeting as Kent was sealed off. We made a couple of the calls - then we found the lines dead - the phones were jammed. A B.J. reporter was in the office phoning in his report on what had happened. The radio was telling us how many had been killed - but the reports were still unconfirmed. But we had seen four ambulances ~~frax~~ when we were upstairs. And still people were wandering around outside - after being ordered by bullhorns to return to their dorms and/or get into buildings. I think we were all a little afraid the kids might really begin another rampage and go hog-wild. So we sat around and waited and watched as best we could. Radio said no traffic on Route 5 - to keep it open for additional N.G. - and ambulances, etc. Finally at 3:00 they said we should go home. They had tried to disperse the gang with teargas, time and time again - they had run out of teargas. So, under guard, and with the 3 men who were in our office (The 2 deans were out of town and missed it all) - we all went out together and walked up the hill - as were all the other workers



3-

and started for home - so frightened, and so saddened - and bewildered by what had happened. And we weren't even sure if we would run into N.G. challenges trying to get home. But no one did, I found.

Then - the trip through town was a weird thing - like a ghost town - the stores had been ordered to close just a little before - and all were shut tight. No cars parked on the streets - just here and there you'd see a uniform - or a car with uniforms - or one or two pedestrians.

Oh, yes - the announcement also said that the Univ. was closed indefinitely - at the same time they said we should go home. So kids were trying to pack up and find ways home. Some were unable to do so at all - there is a group of foreign students, for instance, which they have quartered all in one building on campus. But no one gets on or off now without a pass. Not even faculty, of course.

And after a meeting somewhere, it was announced that faculty blames it all on the administration and the Governor - and ~~shas~~ says that they should give the Univ. back to them and the students to run. Boy, if only it were that simple. I sure do have my doubts about those faculty folks.

So - I can't remember what day it is - it has been such a hectic time - seems like it must be later in the week, but it's only Tuesday. And Mary and I thought surely the Dean would have managed to get one or both of us on the phone - and tried to get somebody to do some work for him - but, thank goodness, so far he has not done so. He was returning as we were leaving, Mary says - she saw him driving up. I wonder if he got in at that time.

Jim was not home when I got home and I was worried, but I saw K. Deal outside and she said he had just left on a motorcycle with a friend. Well, thought I, he won't get very far. But he came home a couple of hours later - and didn't know that we were under martial law by that time - and that all roads into Kent were barricaded - no one in or out. They were even saying that people who lived in Kent, but worked outside were not going to be able to return home that night. That Red Cross and Salvation Army had set up emergency food and shelter units at Stow and Ravenna. Well, I thought at first that this all seemed a bit much - that it was like locking the barn after the horse had gone, but I realize now that there was great fear of additional troublemakers coming over to join the kids - and make things worse - the radicals are always on the alert for a chance of this kind.

But, back to Jim - he and this guy had been to Ravenna - and had got back somehow - thro Brady Lake - and Twin Lakes, etc. So, you see, they must have known there was something going on - but I'm not sure.

They set curfews at Ravenna and Stow - and even a limited one at Cuy. Falls. And there has been prohibition in Portage County since Friday night, by the way.

But I went out this morning and stores are open and traffic is moving - but the curfew goes back into effect tonight - but not till 10. Jim says he may be ~~xxx~~ out all night playing cards. He's about had it.

But I bought paint this morning - and started in. I plan to paint everything that's standing still - so Jim better keep moving. I thought he would join me, but he didn't. He put up ~~xx~~ a couple of screens that



4-

I didn't get put up about last Friday evening after work. I'd waited long enough for him to do it - so I put on the doors and two front windows. Had washed the front porch, too. We had had some plenty hot weather - and I wanted some air. So, of course, it immediately turned cool again. But it's all done now - and that warm can return pretty soon now.

I didn't get started till 2 or 3 today, but got one room done - even the closet. Am anxious to move back to the middle room. And want to get it painted first.

Judy had been trying to call me - first at work - and lines were dead - when she had begun to hear the rumors of the trouble - while she was at work Monday - and then when she called home, she would get a busy signal - but it actually was not working - but after a while, she did manage to get thro. They had said we should not use the phones at all except for emergency - and emergency meant just that - not just to see if someone was home.

They closed the Kent public schools - and bussed ALL the kids home with escorts - police or guards, I dunno which. They remained closed today, but radio says they probably will resume tomorrow.

Merle phoned me this morning before she went to work. They had tried to get thro last night and could not. She was at Sellers as she had stayed with his kids last night - Sellers and A.K. had left for their trip to Boston. A lady is coming in today to stay with the kids though until Sat., I think. Then Merle and/or Mom will be helping out some way or other - not sure what she said now.

I was so tired yesterday - and last night - after all that tension, I guess - I felt like I'd been thro a wringer. Exhausted. Hadn't slept very well at all for two nights - and I finally did sleep last night. It was so quiet. No traffic - no kids - no helicopters. Peace - but what a price to pay for it.

Oh, yes, I forgot to mention the helicopters that were flying constantly overhead from Sat. on, it seemed. The wind toppled one of them out at the KSU golf course today, I heard - and smashed it pretty good. The copters did some of the teargassing - trying to disperse the kids - but it would never last long.

I wanted some masking tape at the store this morning, but they said the National Guards took it all - they were also out at Clarking - on the roof, they said. They were guarding everything - even the courthouse - and the hospital.

What a time. Tonight's paper is full of pictures. All the TV news services feature Kent State - with a detailed story of what has happened. Even David Brickley - and everyone is waiting to see what KSU will do about it. There has been no prediction when they will reopen the Univ. There are all sorts of investigations going on. They have even asked the FBI to join in - Many people are convinced there were outside agitators - just as many think not. Many think it was unnecessary - that the Guards had no right. That they should not have even had bullets in their guns - I wonder if the kids thought the guns were empty, too. But I'm afraid I feel that it was inevitable that it would happen somewhere sometime. The Guards are only human. And I do not believe they would have opened fire unless they thought they had been fired upon. But with the rock throwing, and vile language that they were having to endure - I cannot put the blame on them.



I heard one interview with an ex GI student at KSU who was there - and I agree with him, when he said, of course the Guards were scared, too, - with a mob like that advancing toward you - and you know you have to stand there - well, he bet their knees were shaking, too. And it would take so little to cause something like this to take place.

Martial law - imagine it - Kent under martial law. But, I'm sure the worst of that is over. We can really come and go as we like now. Mary was going to Cleveland this afternoon - Stow's curfew is not as strict as ours was - ours is not so strict now. People can come and go to work as required. No problem. But KSU is still under martial law - pretty strict.

Poor Pres. White - I wish he had been in town - starting Friday night. Don't know - but maybe it would not have come to this. He is mighty sad - he has been pretty proud of how they've handled things before.

And, I must point out another thing - there was not one black student involved in this thing. They had said earlier that they would not be part of this - don't remember why now. But believe me, they were not in it. You don't see one single dark face in any newsreels of all the disturbances.

Well, I have gone on and on, but wanted to tell it all as best I can. I'm making carbons of this for Greensboro and Alexandria. I may talk to Pat tonight. Haven't made up my mind for sure. Am kinds tired. She may have tried to get thro, too - but also, maybe she hadn't heard as much about it. But she must have - but then there is such a bunch of Kentites there - someone may have already talked to someone here.

If I could have been sure how much time we would be off, I would have taken off for G'boro for a visit, but then I would not have gotten my painting done at all.

And the grass is up to my knees - and Jim fiddled with the mower, but can't get it to work. So I gotta do something about that.

But I'm tired now - must close and rest a bit. Just talking about it has worn me out again.

By now - my two-digit-midgit - boy that sure sounds good. Am still hoping you may get home earlier - never know - can hope though. And I must write Carol to come for that visit. Never did hear any more from her - wonder if her dad got along o.k. with his operation.

Sorry to write such a sad letter, but felt you would be interested to get my first-hand view of what has happened around your old alma mater, and home town - which is world-wide news these days.

Love you - and God Bless You and Keep You Safe, my son.

*wondered how much you heard about this, Pat -  
wonder if FBI is working on it - probably local  
agents, eh?*

*Love ya -  
Mom*