

POLITICS AND STUDENT ACTIVISM

Introduction

Nancy Birk

As we examine three decades of student involvement in political movements, we hear from three generations of speakers. There are many “fans” of the 60s who think that only that era epitomized student involvement in politics and that student activism is dead, that our current students are apathetic. Today’s speakers will dispel those myths. Abe Zaidan, with his long and distinguished career as a journalist with both the *Akron Beacon Journal* and the *Cleveland Plain Dealer*, is perfectly poised to synthesize the student movement and give us the perspective of his many years of observation of politics and student activism. Michael Lee is the faculty advisor for the May 4 Task Force, and has seen that group of student activists remain firm in their commitment to memorializing and remembering what happened at Kent in 1970. Traci is an undergraduate student and the current president of Black United Students at Kent State University. Black United Students began at Kent in 1968, and they have never been afraid to take a stand when needed.