

The May 4th Task Force: A Mandate

Michael Lee

In 1970, a modest student protest movement at Kent State University escalated to a confrontation between students and Ohio National Guard. The result, "Four Dead in Ohio," had both large and long-lasting social and political consequences. We will discuss that event in terms of the politics of 1970 and today. We will try to convey its significance to average citizens as well as to the historians who reflect on its meaning. There was something special about this tragedy in American history. The student activists of today continue to look back on May 4, 1970, as a pivotal point in their education. As student activism continues not on an arguably more sophisticated and broad front, students are aware that the forces they protest deal harshly with their enemies.