

# NEWS AROUND TOWN

## This Week in History

by Angellique Sanders

Picture this: you're a college student, on your way to your next class. Hearing a noise like firecrackers behind you, you turn and find some soldiers pumping you and several schoolmates full of bullets...and the soldiers are American, supposedly always on "your" side of the fight...

This is what thirteen students of Kent State University experienced twenty years ago this Friday. Two men and two women never lived to share their side of this tragedy; another man remembers My fourth as the day America turned on him and put him in a wheelchair for the rest of his life.

Five days earlier, Richard Nixon had induced America's gasp of shocked war-horror by approving the incursion of Cambodia. Public opinion of the war went from casual approval (stemming primarily from faith in the president) to vehement malcontent. Anti-war demonstrations sprouted from seeds of moral concussions. This was the beginning of separation in the country, between the government and the citizens, the empowered and the powerless. Nixon encouraged this separation, as did many other public officials in positions of

**"The National Guard was a symbol of their discontent, representative to them of the Army"**

of their discontent, representative to them of the army that invaded Cambodia.

On Monday, May fourth, 2000 students planted themselves in protest on the football field with the National Guard. The Guardsmen weren't enveloped by the awed respect they usually commanded; more or less, they felt ridiculed. As Lieutenant Alexander Stevensen, platoon leader of Troop G, scoffed, "At the time of the firing, the crowd was acting like this whole thing was a circus. The crowd must have thought that the National Guard was harmless. They were having fun with the Guard. The circus was in town." In retaliation for making them seem foolish, the National Guard inflicted the death penalty on four students, and wounded nine others.

The Guardsmen should not even have had loaded weapons. The guidelines set out by the National Advisory Commission on Civil Disorders and the Department of the Army dictate that the issuance of loaded weapons to law enforcement officials is restricted to instances in which the resistance is armed, and the officials must be unable to control the situation without weaponry. This clearly was not the situation. Yet, the 113 Guardsmen wore gas masks, bore tear-gas launchers, and were armed with M-1 high-powered rifles (deadly even at two miles).

General Robert Canterbury "justifies" the shootings--more than 30 rounds of gunfire--with this explanation: the students "threatened the lives of my men." Photographs taken by journalism students reveal that the protesters were clearly posing no deadly threat. The Guardsmen, though pursued by students, should not have panicked (they were armed with guns; the students weren't!), and they had an escape route should they have needed to flee.

Sylvester Del Corso, Adjutant General of the Ohio National Guard, claimed that the Guardsmen opened fire because a sniper from a nearby rooftop shot at them. However, a reporter from the New York Times, who was at the scene, said he "did not see any indication of sniper fire, nor was the sound of any gunfire audible before the Guard volley." Gene Williams, a member of the student newspaper staff, said he saw the troops turn "in unison, as if responding to a command...I saw no snipers nor did I hear any shots until the line

of troops turned in unison and opened fire." Additionally, the Guard was not firing into the air as if at a nearby rooftop; they shot at the students, and one-fifth of their bullets made their mark.

Nixon, in his usual political hypocrisy, altered his opinion in coordination with public empathy: originally having called the student demonstrators "bums", he did an about-face and said he hoped that "this tragic and unfortunate incident will strengthen the determination of all the nation's campuses, administrators, faculty, and students alike to stand firmly for the fight which exists in this country of peaceful dissent..."

Ohio Governor James Rhodes--whom, in coordination with Watergate's mastermind Richard Nixon, sent the National Guard to Kent State in the first place--also did a 180 and said in a telegram to (then F.B.I. director) J. Edgar Hoover, "Today is the saddest day I have known as Governor."

The Kerner Commission, which investigated some 1967 riots the National Guard was involved in, said the NG has little militaristic training and no combat experience and might easily panic or misunderstand orders. A former member of the commission stated: "Practically no National Guard force in the United States today is getting enough training to enable them to provide the quality of performance required in these tough situations."

Major General Winston P. Wilson, Jr. said: "We're deeply concerned any time a life is lost. Those guys were given a job of restoring law and order. That's what they were called for. They were doing their job as best as they can do." Apparently, shooting and killing students is the best they can do.

Ironically, the May fifth issue of the Wall Street Journal, which carried the story of the KSU incident, also carried a full page that deemed Ohio the best location in the nation, and went on to denote the merits of Ohio, including education.]

Over 700 colleges closed in sympathy with the KSU incident, and many remained closed for the whole quarter.

Public excitement died down in 1973, when the U.S. withdrew from Vietnam. The lesson of governmental power, and the separation between governing officials and the citizens, is one that should remain with us on this anniversary of the Kent State University tragedy.

power. The president upped his security in a nose-thumbing gesture to the public.

Any public protests, exercising the people's viable Constitutionally-granted right to assemble and speak peaceably, resulted in unjust police-dispersing or arrests. At Ohio State University on April 30, three students demonstrated in support of more Black students and teachers, and the discontinuance of militaristic research. On May third, the police sent 75 people (including child pediatrician Dr. Benjamin Spock) to jail for holding an outdoor anti-war prayer session. College students around the nation editorialized and rallied.

The city of Kent, Ohio (population 27,000--21,000 of which were KSU students) cut off its beer supply after the first few days of rioting. When a KSU riot against the ROTC became violent, the National Guard stationed troops at the campus. The student reaction was clear: the National Guard was a symbol

## Selfishness: The Evil that Destroys Relationships And Friendships

by Ulysses Tucker, Jr.

Webster's defines "selfish" as "too much concerned with one's own welfare or interest and having little or no concern for others; self-centered. 2. showing or prompted by self interest . . ."

When I reflect on the relationships taken on over the years, they either worked because there was no selfishness involved or failed because one or both parties were selfish. People can be very selfish at times or frankly, all the time. Be it in the work environment, in relationships, or in their individual lifestyle. How many times have you (or know someone) entered into a relationship with another person knowing that it lacked compatibility, spirituality, intellectual substance, but dealt with it anyway?

Examples: You knew that he was married, but you dated him anyway? Or, you knew that your feelings for her were "zero", but she had a very nice body? For whatever reasons, be it sexual/physical attraction, money, or other materialistic trappings--people can end up with others for very selfish reasons. "Flexing" one's ego can hurt people, too, because the other person may care, feel, or desire the relationship to work. Did they ever have a chance when the other person was just killing time? It is morally wrong and emotionally abusive to consciously hurt or deal with other humans this way.

When I look at my past behavior, I am also guilty of the above mentioned abuses. I can recall being selfish, non-compromising, aloof, unavailable at times, a jerk, and uncooperative on purpose. Why? Because I knew that the relationship was not going anywhere. Despite the feelings of the individual, I did not want the relationship or encounter to work. I totally lacked regard for that individual's feelings. Not that I'm

attempting to justify my behavior, but I was new to this particular city, lonely, and knew very few people. The attraction was purely sexual, no question about it and I pursued the situation with that mentality.

As mentioned last week, people know when they think that a permanent mate is within their reach or in their life. People also know when the relationship is not going to work. I knew in the situation mentioned above that it was not going to work, but I indulged anyway. All I cared about was my needs, selfish desires, and wants. Had I been more sensitive, I may have found out that she had needs also.

In many ways, people "hang out" or "buy time" with others because their life might be empty and unfulfilled. My suggestion, today, to people with these tendencies or behavior patterns is to learn how to just be friends with people, period. It is real simple advice. However, the "sex thing" always gets in the way. (In the movie, "When Harry Met Sally", the issue of whether a man and a woman can be friends without sex was debated). I believe that there can be friendships without sex. The problem? Most males equate their manhood with their sexuality and some women allow them to get away with this behavior.

The question remains, is there a cure for the individuals (both men and women) who involve themselves in relationships for all the wrong reasons?

Yes, there is a serious cure for those who have this mindset. Simply put, what goes around comes around. One of the biggest emotional/spiritual awakenings of my life occurred when I finally met someone, who I thought would be the last woman in my life. Talk about being excited, supportive, open, honest and compromising--I was the model

mate! Problem though, she dealt with me like the earlier situation I described regarding my own behavior. It was then that I realized how I made someone else feel. I was hurt and lost, just like the person I treated unfairly prior to her.

Today, I would much rather have a good woman friend (without sex) than to ruin a good friendship with sexual advances or sex. Some things are better just left alone. It goes (men and women) both ways. On the other hand, there is no substitute for maturity.

One of my favorite verses in the Bible (Matthew 12-Verses 35-37) serves as a reminder that you should always have good intentions with people and treat them right.

"A good man (or woman) out of the good treasures of the heart, bringeth forth good things and an evil man (or woman) out of the evil treasures of the heart, bringeth forth evil things. Verily, I say unto you that every idle word that men (or women) shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgement. For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned . . ." Simply put, you can do/speak wrong now to other human beings, but in the end you are going to pay. You can do wrong now and pay later or do right now and be rewarded in the end. Which do you prefer?

Writer's Note: By no means am I a total expert on relationships. My opinions are based on my own experiences. If you as a reader have experience that relate to the various topics I've discussed over the last few months, feel free to drop them off at the Portland Observer or mail them. Thanks for your support.

### 40,000 Toys Recalled Nationwide

A hazardous toy identified in a report from the Oregon State Public Interest Research Group has been recalled nationwide the United States Consumer Product Safety Commission has announced. The OSPIRG study, "The 1989 Dangerous Dozen: Unsafe Toys", was released in November 1989.

The recall involves approximately 40,000 toy truck sets manufactured by Henry Gordy International of Plainfield, N.J. The toy sets, Eggscavators Toy Trucks, were recalled because they contain small parts which pose a choking hazard to children under age three.

"Many toy manufacturers pay scant attention to product safety," charged Jon Stubenvoll, OSPIRG's consumer advocate and author of the report. "Year after year, young children are needlessly injured and killed by toys which violate federal standards."

Toys containing small parts that have play value for children under age three are prohibited by federal regulations from being marketed to this age group. "Yet toy manufacturers continue to recklessly put children at risk from this choking hazard," said Stubenvoll.

### Marcus McKinley: Education Is Key To His Success

Whenever Marcus McKinley looks at his two and a half year old son, Marcus Jr., he thinks about the influence his own father has had on him throughout life. As a minister, the elder McKinley stressed to his son the impor-



tance of maintaining self-dignity and self-respect, respecting others, close family ties, and believing in God. His father's influence has helped him to develop an attitude conducive to today's lifestyles and social patterns, and has enabled him to adjust and learn how to deal with the demands of working with youth.

Moving to Portland from Albany, N.Y. at age 9, Marcus quickly discovered that if he was going to succeed in life, education was going to be the key. He attended Sabin Grade School, Washington High, and Oregon State University, graduating in 1974 with a B.A. in social sciences. Prior to attending Oregon State, Marcus was a student with the University's Upward Bound program after being introduced to the opportunity in high school. He credits Upward Bound with being somewhat instrumental in his college preparation.

Currently employed at Nero & Associates as a Job Corps counselor, Marcus loves working with youth and notes that many of them who can benefit from Job Corps are "not bad, not unredeemable." Job Corps is a great opportunity for youth who, for many reasons, may be in a situation that isn't providing adequate education or skills to get a job.

McKinley recruits out of the Urban League office at 10 N.E. Russell every Tuesday and Thursday from 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. (280-2600) on other days, he can be reached at 225-1941.

### VOA Receives Substance Abuse Contract

Volunteers of America Oregon, Inc. (VOA), a non-profit social service agency, was awarded a 40-bed alcohol and drug treatment contract from the Multnomah County Division of Community Corrections. The contract is the first to be awarded in response to the Public Safety Levy approved by voters last fall.

The 90-day treatment program for men is scheduled to open by October 1, 1990. It will target sentenced offenders identified by the courts, probation officers, or presentence investigators. Offenders will be sentenced to the program instead of serving prison or jail terms.

Jim LeBlac, President of VOA, said the nature of the substance abuse program with the offender population mandates a comprehensive approach. "This includes holding the offenders accountable for their actions, providing treatment, and giving them skills to become productive members of the community."

County commissioner Gretchen Kafoury, who announced the award, agreed. "We need to address the fact that 70-75% of the arrestees in our system have substance abuse problems. The goal of this program is to reduce their recidivism."

Each person sentenced to complete the program will receive a thorough assessment and individual treatment plan. Program activities will occur 7 days a week. At a minimum, each resident

will be scheduled for one hour of individual counseling, 15 hours of structured, therapeutic group counseling, and 10 hours of classes or workshops related to education, employment, life skills, and self-help groups.

Each resident will have a discharge plan which focuses on housing, employment, and family support. After completing the program, residents are expected to continue in weekly group counseling and support sessions and drug testing for six months.

"With the courts and probation officers helping enforce the 90-day stay," explained Cary Harkaway, Program Manager of the Community Corrections Division, "we expect that 70% of the enrollees will complete the program and meet the majority of the objectives in their treatment plan."

VOA currently operates the Women's Residential Center (WRC), a similar program which treats 52 female felons at a time. In just over two years of operation, the WRC has assisted approximately 250 women.

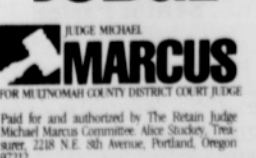
Kafoury applauded VOA's national reputation for excellence and its demonstrated record of achievement. "The more we can do to reduce the dependence of these offenders on alcohol and drugs," said Kafoury, "the more we do to promote public safety and reduce crime. I'm grateful to the voters of Multnomah County for approving this program."

## JUDGE THE JUDGE



When was the last time you met a judge who goes out of his way to schedule sentencing at the convenience of the crime victim? Or who passionately believes that sentencing carries the double objective of preserving reputation of the crime and bringing restitution to the victim of the crime? Such a judge is Judge Michael Marcus.

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