

YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY
ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

Kent State Shootings

Personal Experience

O H 1695

SAUL FRIEDMAN

Interviewed

by

Mickey Huff

on

July 6, 1995

H· This is an interview with Dr. Saul Friedman for the Youngstown State University Oral History Program, on the Kent State Shootings, by Mickey Huff, on July 6, 1995, at Dr. Friedman's office, at 3 00 p m

Dr Friedman, just to start out the interview, can you give us a little bit of information about your background, where you grew up, family life?

F Well, the most important thing, I come from a large family of ten. Of that number, six were boys. All six attended Kent State University. We have a long relationship with the university dating back to at least 1950. I remember two of my older brothers coming home from Kent during the great Thanksgiving blizzard of 1950, so we are talking 45 years. At least three of us received undergraduate degrees from Kent State. So there is an affection for the university, a long standing history of relationship with the university. Plus, in the last 25 or 26 years since I came back to this area, I have been teaching over there as well.

H You have been teaching there for how long?

F. Actually, it started through Hillel and the honors college, experimental college, back about 1973. So I have been teaching over there for 22 years and in that period working with Jerry Turk, who was the rabbi at Hillel, and also with Larry Kaplan, who is their diplomatic historian. We proposed the creation in 1974 of a Jewish Studies program. You talk to people at Kent, and you are going to find that practically everybody who had anything to do with Jewish Studies claims that they are responsible for developing Jewish Studies. Actually, the Jewish Studies program came out of a 20 page proposal that I wrote in 1974 involving Akron, Canton, Cleveland, Kent, and Youngstown. They funded the program, finally, after a couple of experimental years in 1975. It has been funded by the university since 1975.

H· Where were you in 1970 when the shootings took place?

F That was spring quarter of 1970 here in Youngstown. It was the end of my first year on this campus. There were six of us who were hired in 1969. We were all finishing our first year here. Dr Berger, Dr Jenkins, Dr Kulchytsky, Dr. Huang, Dr Ronda. We had another person in Black Studies, too -- Dom Capecci. We all were newcomers, basically, to the institution. But, at the same time, a number of us had connections with Kent State. On the faculty at that time you had Dr George Beelen, who was finishing his PhD at Kent. Dr May had just finished his PhD at Kent. I am trying to think who else. Dr. Kulchytsky had done his undergraduate work at Kent State. There were a number of people who knew the campus, had a very positive experience on Kent State. We are talking a

campus which is only 35 miles down the road, anyhow, so that when one campus sneezes, the other campus wipes its nose or something like that. There is a really close relationship, not so much as far as the students are concerned, but faculty who have been at the different institutions feel a kinship anyway.

H What was Kent like when you were there as a student?

F To understand from my perspective what happened and my whole view on the tragedy of May 4, 1970, you have got to go back and compare Kent in the 1950's with what happened in the 1960's and led to a transformation or tragedy of 1970. In the 1950's, Kent had just exploded from, basically, a teacher training institution after World War II. It had all these people coming back from the military, including a couple of my older brothers, who went on the GI Bill. I do not know exact numbers, but I know that in the 1950's the campus numbers swelled substantially. By the time I graduated in 1959, the campus had something in the range of 7000 or 8000 students. That seems small by today's standards, but back in 1959 that was a pretty decent size campus. Remember, it was primarily a liberal arts and education school in that period. In other words, only a handful of people took courses in art or music or any of these other fields. They had an architecture school, but it was in its infancy if I am not mistaken.

What happened in the 1960's, the campus exploded like all the other state universities. It doubled in size, and by 1970 it was probably close to 20,000. In a decade, it went from about 7000 students to 20,000 students. What happened also, the campus physically shifted. When I was an undergraduate, the main campus was up on Main Street, and it had an atmosphere to it. If you go up to Kent today, you have that nice hilltop with all the woods and the black squirrels and many of the buildings that date back to 1910 or 1920. It has a unique architectural flavor to it which is like what you would find at Miami, at Ohio University. Each of those schools has its own flare because of the way they have been situated.

But, with the explosion on the campus, the campus moved down Summit Street to where the student center is now, and it lost any kind of real identity. There was no center campus, really, no real place that people could congregate other than maybe the student center, and that really is not a very effective place for that either. It is certainly not like Ohio State where, if you want to hold a demonstration, you can go out in front of the library in the center Oval, as it is called, and you can attract a lot of attention. These other universities have the same kind of thing, not at Kent any longer. They just simply abandoned the front part of the campus and left it for the back.

In the 1960's I was in graduate school at the time, and on various occasions I was even carrying mail in Kent, so I knew the campus, the town very well. That is another dimension of my relationship with Kent, two and a half years as a mailman in Kent. Obviously, there was a connection there. But I

witnessed the construction of dormitories Jimmy Rhodes was our governor at that point, and Rhodes was a builder, not necessarily for good things Youngstown State came into being because of Rhodes, as a state university, and other institutions became state, like Akron and Cincinnati Rhodes had this idea that there should be a state university or facility every 30 miles or so That is why you have Warren KSU That is why you have Salem KSU and all these other branches The explosion in enrollment led to an explosion in dormitory building. They kept building and building and building at Kent, and I remember delivering mail and wondering, "When are they going to stop? These buildings are not even being filled with students " I left the area and went back to Columbus to finish off my PhD and work at Otterbein College in 1966. When I did, the university was not filling its dorms even then

I taught at Otterbein for two years, then at Ohio Dominican in Columbus another year before coming up to Youngstown in 1969 In the summer between Otterbein and Ohio Dominican, summer of 1968, a couple of former students of mine at Otterbein came down to Columbus and went out to dinner with my wife and myself We went to a restaurant where we talked about Kent because they had transferred to Kent One of these guys is now an attorney in Florida, a bright guy His name is Fisher I asked, "How do you like Kent?" They said, "It is great It is a beautiful campus It is a nice town It is a typical college town and everything " I said, "What about enrollment and things like that?" They said, "It is a weird campus The university is renting dormitory space to people who are not students " I said, "What are you talking about?" They said because they had built so many dorms and they were running a deficit on this, they were opening up to people who were college dropouts.

They have dropouts at every institution There are people who go to Ohio State who never get a degree, but they stay in the Columbus area If you go to Kent and you drop out, there are really no places to live or to work in that area But apparently these kids were allowed to stay on the campus, and there was a substantial population of kids who were dropouts who were not in school. Also, the guy told us that Kent was also attracting all kinds of people who were anti-war It was acquiring a reputation I still recall them telling us that the campus was going to explode one day This was in the summer of 1968, and they are telling us that the conditions are right for an explosion because you have got people who are playing at revolution and you have people who are not even working, and they are not going to school In other words, if people are serious about school and they are serious about getting a job, they have less time to just theorize about taking over the world.

When the incident did occur in 1970 it was shocking, but it was not surprising to me That is what I am getting at in terms of the transformation. There was a mismanagement of the institution, but that is something I have discovered is true of Kent historically The institution has always been mismanaged I would not give you a dime for the way the school has functioned,

in retrospect, from 1950 to the present

H What side of the fence do you generally fall on in terms of culpability issues?

F. I will tell you this I was teaching an American history class to get it to the date that this occurred, May 4, and I think it was a Friday

H Monday?

F. It was a Monday? Okay All I remember is it was a very warm day, and we had a class in Rayen Hall I guess you are right. It was a Monday It was in Rayen Hall, and I had a 3:00 American history class We do not teach 3:00 classes any more, and nobody teaches in Rayen Hall, which is now the Board of Education building over on Rayen Avenue and Wick It was not air conditioned There was a large group of people in the class, and the word had come down It was only just before the 3:00 class that we got word on this because the Kent shootings had happened right near noon or something like that But it got to us

I could not believe what I heard at first. It sounded like rumor mongering because we had had all kinds of demonstrations on campus here, too, against the incursion into Cambodia I recall that, when there was the announcement of Nixon sending forces into Cambodia, some of the student leaders on this campus organized demonstrations over by the big rock But they were generally well behaved It got out of control on one occasion I do not remember if it was after or before Kent, but there was a demonstration that required the police on the campus I remember I was very unhappy seeing city policemen coming on the campus behind the Wick Motel

But going back to the actual day when it happened, I had a couple of students in my class I will not tell you what their names were because I still know who they are. They are decent guys that were very much activists against the war This was one of those occasions where you just simply scrap your lecture and talk about what is going on in the real world We talked a bit All I remember is pointing out to the students that we did not have enough information to act or condemn anybody at that point We just did not know There was just too much rumor mongering going on that particular day I had heard that at least two of the kids were Jewish One was a Jewish girl from Boardman from the same synagogue that I attend. I did not know her, but I did know her parents We talked a little bit in the class. Some of the kids expressed themselves, and I just simply made reference to, in that class, the Jewish prayer for the dead, which is known as the Kaddish, which contains repeated references to peace and that people should not blame one group or another group or anything. They should just remember that this whole thing has to be resolved and that we should all be wishing for peace

Now, you are asking my opinions on who is responsible Again,

everybody is responsible Everybody is responsible I really believe the administration -- I am talking about the university administration -- unconsciously, inadvertently, haphazardly, however you want to put it, helped create the conditions that led to an eruption of this kind by virtue of what I just indicated In other words, by allowing non-students and radicals to come to the campus Again, two years before this happened, I had been informed in Columbus, Ohio, that sooner or later Kent was going to explode That did not mean that Kent would be the first place in the world that was going to explode There had been university demonstrations at Columbia, Cornell, Berkley, and so forth for years against the war The particular circumstances that I am talking about, allowing people who are non-students to be on the campus and to just simply use the campus for political purposes was inexcusable Non-students like the one famous photo of the girl, for example I never understood what was a 14 year old runaway doing on the campus of Kent State University at that time She is now a matron, and she is now the voice of wisdom They just had an anniversary about the whole thing 20 years ago, and she was honored on the campus and so forth. But the fact remains the administration screwed up big time

As far as the demonstrators, the demonstrators screwed up big time, too. The demonstrators screwed up because they did not expect people to challenge them I used the term at the time, "playing at revolution " It is very safe to go and march You do not expect something like this to happen in the United States Things like this do not happen Things like this do happen in the U S As a matter of fact, you go back in American history in the 1930's, labor violence You teach about strikers who were innocent, strikers parading and so forth Almost invariably, there are two people killed at Electric Autolight in Toledo in 1934 There are two killed with Harry Bridges leading a strike by the Longshoremen out in San Francisco in 1934 There are always two or four people killed, and they are being shot by National Guard units People thought this was shocking, but it is not because it has happened, unfortunately, in our history

The demonstrators thought that they do whatever they wanted, and they had gotten away with trouble a couple of days before That is something that people forget about, whether you are talking about the guy, James Michener, who wrote a book on Kent also. He came in, set himself up at a motel, interviewed a few people, and so forth The weekend before, some people had gone berserk downtown Kent cops are feeble, anyhow If you ever talked to anybody who knew Kent cops, they are the Keystone Cops They had real violence to face, and they could not handle it in the city There were places burned downtown There was also the one ROTC building where I once had a class, and of all things Constitutional History. It was burned down as well The students or the demonstrators thought they could do practically anything because there had been demonstrations across the country There was kind of

a dare mentality We dare you, we dare you, we dare you. They were daring the wrong people

Then, we come to the National Guard The National Guard bears responsibility because whoever gave them live ammunition was insane I will not say that It was stupid Insanity had nothing to do with it It was stupid yet, at the same time, I can understand A lot of people do not recall this either. Do you know where that National Guard unit came from?

H: They were in Akron during the teamster strike

F They were kids Some of them were teenagers themselves, college age people from Lake Milton some of them, as close as Lake Milton, and they had been involved in the teamster strike which had been violent the previous month By that I mean the teamsters had been shooting people on the highways from Akron and this area So the Guard was issued live ammunition for that reason That is dangerous enough in itself, but they were issued live ammunition Why they were allowed to continue having that ammunition when they were on the campus makes no sense In other words, you can understand why they had the ammunition to begin with, but they should not have had it when they were on the campus It is as simple as that.

Nobody knows, to the present day, what precipitated the first shots There are people who claim that it was a shot fired or a backfire that started this whole thing, and the guards were being pummeled by rocks You can talk all you want about, well, they are only rocks They are only rocks I no longer say they are only rocks Obviously, the British thought that they were being threatened in 1770 when they shot at Boston The Israelis come under rock attack all the time You see the fusilades of rocks, and you can understand where, sooner or later, frustration wears thin. You have people who have been overworked anyhow They are kids that are being called pigs and coming under an assault They are not riot police They are not well trained riot police They are National Guard units Who the hell is in the National Guard? They are people that wind up, usually, in the bars four days a week or something like that So you have the perfect mix for a tragedy right here Then, of course, you have Rhodes, who is at the top of all of this He was personally going to show these bums, as he called the students, that he was the boss So he also wanted a hard line position on the part of the National Guard, and the result is people end up with a tragedy

So if you are looking for who is responsible, it spills over into every area It is too easy You are going to talk to people who are going to say, "The National Guard did it" You are going to talk to people who are going to say that the students did it, they got what they deserved. There are people who still believe that That is absolutely wrong That is absolutely wrong because nobody, first of all, deserves to get shot, no matter what your political position is

But on top of that, most of the victims, I am talking the fatal victims, were not even involved in this demonstration. They were kids. Sandy Scheuer was walking back from class. She was not politically active. She was in a dormitory that was located near Blanket Hill, and she got shot by one of these stray bullets.

One of the problems, whenever I see people shooting off guns in newsreels, in the news, for example, in the West Bank and Gaza, you see these goofs shooting their pistols into the air. Those are not blank bullets that they are shooting in the air. Those are real bullets. My wife and I sit there, and we say, "Those bullets have to land somewhere. Somebody is going to get hurt by people shooting these machine guns in the air and that sort of thing." If you shoot, even if you are shooting stray bullets, somebody is going to get hit by this. Of course, the tragedy was that most of these kids were not demonstrators. But even the demonstrators that got hit, nobody deserves that.

H Were you involved in any way after the shootings?

F. No. I will be honest, Mickey. The people who read this or listen to this will say, "Yeah, yeah, yeah. Friedman is giving you this line. He was a hawk." I was a hawk, and I still am an unrepentant hawk on Vietnam. But that does not mean that I would justify this kind of thing. The point is that I always felt that we were in Vietnam not for imperialistic reasons, not because we were the thugs of the universe or something like that, but because we were there essentially to protect or at least stand up for a lesser evil, not a good, but a less evil government. By my standards, it was less evil. It was not democratic. The Vietnamese government was not the government of Abraham Lincoln. But neither is the government of Richard Nixon, and neither is the government of Bill Clinton the government of Abraham Lincoln either. Maybe that is a good thing when you think of some of the people that Lincoln had. The point that I am getting at is that I thought we were doing the right thing, and, in retrospect, there are people who would say, "No, we were not."

In one way or another, at least, we are not facing quite the same kind of threat in the world in terms of doomsday, in terms of atomic bombs and that sort of thing today. But through the entire 1970's and before the Cambodian tragedy and before Kent and after, I continued arguing that we had a legitimate right to be involved, and I was very much upset after the fall of Vietnam when people continued to deny, and I am talking about some of my closest colleagues in the department, continued to deny as rumor mongering the genocide in Cambodia. I am talking until about 1979 there were some people who were very doveish on Vietnam who said, "No, no. These are false reports."

Then, when it did happen that this was confirmed, when it did happen, the Kamarmouche had perpetrated genocide against its own people, then the people who said it did not happen said we were responsible. We were responsible because we were the ones who contaminated Cambodia and we made it happen.

that they killed their own people. I thought to myself, "What kind of convoluted logic is that?" Then about 1977 or 1978, when you had a half a million boat people again, when you had all kinds of Chinese being thrown out of Vietnam and people were fleeing for their lives, again people said we were responsible. My argument was we had at all times a responsibility in terms of humanitarianism to those people. And I may be naive, but I did not think of us as the fascists taking over Vietnam either in 1970 or in 1975 or 1977.

The only one of the people who were Vietnam protestors that I admired after the fall of Vietnam was Joan Baez. She is only one that was totally consistent. I hated her guts when this was taking place. But afterwards, Baez gave concerts, went to Thailand, continued to protest what was going on, not just simply the persecution of the Cambodians but the Laotians and all sorts of people that were in reeducation centers in Vietnam. She is at least consistent. She is goofy, but she is consistent in that respect. So at least she was principled. If you are talking about what subsequent involvement, that was about the extent of it until a few years ago. Now, this is something that you should know because for posterity you should know. What is the name of the guy who is the head of the committee for the monument? He was wounded. He lives over in Kent.

H Are you talking about Allen Canfora?

F Canfora

H I think he was on the committee.

F He was the one who was spearheading work on the monument. I do not know if you know what happened with the monument.

H I interviewed him.

F Well, he probably never even mentioned my name.

H No, he did not.

F Canfora ran into a real problem. The whole committee for a memorial ran into a problem when they had that Segal memorial, which was dumb. It was really a stupid memorial to suggest or even imply that the fathers are killing the sons. Brothers killing brothers is what really happened at Kent State. In other words, you have 19-year-olds killing 19-year-olds. To show the sacrifice of Isaac just did not make any sense. If you have seen the statue by Segal, it is a brutal statue, and it really is not legitimate. It does not represent any kind of healing.

They came up with all kinds of designs. I know that there were all sorts of

people that had designs. Then, there were problems about whether an individual was an American or whether there was an individual who was a Canadian who had come up with a design which should not be allowed and so forth. They had a huge design which they thought was going to be approved, with all kinds of pillars and a park-like setting. It would cost several million dollars, but it required corporate backing and substantial backing from the state. They never got it. They never got the corporate backing because Canfora and his group was considered to be politicized. You are not going to get money from Standard Oil if you say, "The capitalist system is what did this."

I did not know Martin Scheuer at the time in 1970 because I had just been in town for less than a year. Subsequently, when I was doing my research for survivors of the Holocaust, I interviewed Scheuer. Scheuer had been a Jew living in Heidelberg, Germany, back in the 1930's and fled Germany through Palestine and came to Youngstown, with his two daughters and his wife in Boardman. Then, while I was interviewing him, this was about 1975 or 1976, I discovered he was the father of one of the kids who had died. It just shocked me. It really did. How could this happen to somebody who had gone through this? He and his wife are just super people. I never knew Sandy Scheuer, but they are just super people.

Obviously, the Scheuers were very much active in the memorial committee at Kent. It was frozen, quite frankly. It was frozen for a number of years. They put me in touch with Canfora. I do not remember what year it was. It was in the early 1980's sometime. I knew from my own contacts that Canfora was not somebody that I would necessarily agree with, politically. But he explained to me all the things that had gone on, the failure of the corporate backing. Also, he explained that they had tapered the design radically down to, I do not remember what they were doing at that point. But they needed some kind of a commitment to get off center. I am surprised he did not mention this, but people will always put themselves in the best light.

They needed money. "How much?" I asked him to get so that they could go to other people and say, "We have a start here." I do not remember how much they had. They had a few thousand dollars, only a few thousand bucks, and this was after better than a decade. They just could not get the money. We talked, and he said if we could get 10,000 dollars, that would be enough. It happens that I am associated with ZOA in town. ZOA is one of the trustees, that is a Zionist organization, is one of the trustees for the Schermer trust. That is S-C-H-E-R-M-E-R. Charlie Schermer was an attorney in town who died in Los Angeles, leaving money, two million dollars, to the ZOA and B'nai B'rith to administer in a perpetual trust for educational and charitable purposes. It generated about 150,000 dollars a year. I am one of the trustees. An attorney in town is the other one, and then the bank in California is the third. We have distributed money to all sorts of things, including the United Negro College Fund and all sorts of local charities, Israel, all sorts of education places, synagogues,

and so on

I went back and talked to the people in ZOA. There was strong opposition to committing money for this purpose. One of my closest friends in ZOA said to me, "Why are we doing this? Those kids were troublemakers. Those kids deserve what they got." This is a quote. He was absolutely opposed to giving any money to this purpose. I shut him up by saying, "Look, my son Jonathan is going to Kent right now. It could have been Jonathan." At that point, this one man who is devoted to my kids said, "I am in favor of the money." All of a sudden he understood. These were not four digits or four names or four faces, characters. All of a sudden he realized it could have been my kid, and that meant something to him. So, he changed his decision. We had ZOA support, but then we had to have a joint meeting of the ZOA and B'nai B'rith. We had opposition from the B'nai B'rithniks, too, but eventually we won out.

H They had a memorial or a plaque or something

F They had a plaque. That was one of the things they said. It was in the parking lot. I said, "Have you seen the plaque? You cannot even see it." They asked, "Why are you so passionate about doing this whole thing?" I said, "Because it is right. It is the right thing to do. You have got to do something to heal the university." I will be honest with you in terms of healing the university, too, doing things for the university. In the 1980's, I did about ten video productions through Kent State Jewish Studies, and one of the reasons for it was to try to repair the image of the university as an institution where people were killed. You could mention the name of Kent anywhere in the world, and they would say, "That is the university where they killed students." I did not like that because I was a graduate of Kent State University. I am not a faithful alum, but I just felt it was wrong because I had had a positive experience at the institution. So B'nai B'rith eventually agreed to do this as well. Canfora got his 10,000 dollars seed money. He went out, and he got the rest of the money for the memorial, less than \$100,000, I think.

H. Oh, yeah. They garnered about \$40,000 in the university, supposedly.

F But 10,000 of that came from Schermer. That is the absolute truth. The seed money for that came from Schermer, and it came, really, as a result of the Scheuers, in other words, Martin and his wife.

H. Did they lobby for it?

F Let me put it this way. They told me. I went and did the lobbying, and I said, "Do you want Martin Scheuer and his wife to come down here?" That was all that B'nai Brith needed. They approved after. Again, when you humanize this and

you bring it to people and make them aware that this affected people that they know right in their community, all of a sudden there is a big change. So the memorial went forward. Have you seen the memorial?

H: Yeah. It was originally \$1.2 million. It was scaled down to \$100,000 for the fundraising.

F: Yeah.

H: In fact, Canfora had published an article on being tired of bothering with fundraising.

F: Right. They scaled it down even more to where it was just simply this walkway with this insipid inscription by Schwartz. There are also the broken pillars or whatever, and there is the field which is supposed to have 55,000 flowers.

H: 58,000 flowers, daffodils.

F: Are they daffodils? The yellow flowers. I have not seen them in blossom. I do not even remember the year that it was to be dedicated.

H: 1990.

F: It was 1990? Okay. The university, again, had a problem. They had a problem because they were going to dedicate this in a big soiree of some kind, a public dedication, and none of the parents of the slain children were going to be there. I think one of the vice presidents over at Kent knew, I supposed it was through Hawkhowser, that I knew Scheuer. They somehow got in touch with me, the Vice President and the President, and asked. This was before the place was even open. It was ringed off. It was, in other words, sealed off. I do not remember what they had, but they had those crummy plastic orange fences that made it off limits to anybody.

They called to see if I could bring the Scheuers over for a special personal preview of the memorial. The Scheuers did not want any part of going over there. I will tell you this right now. Martin, over the past few years, has not been particularly well physically. But he agreed to come over. They were not eager to go to Kent because they knew about how Kent had trimmed the budget down, all the problems of the memorial. They did not think it was going to be appropriate. The President and one of the Vice Presidents was there. They opened the gates for only Scheuer, Mrs. Scheuer, and myself to go through this place before it was even opened to the public, and they walked through it with us. The Scheuers were not particularly happy. The President was hoping that they would attend the dedication.

Mrs Scheuer and Martin made one request. If you go over there, you will see it. There are people who do not like the memorial, but they do not understand why this request is there. They think it was slapdash put together with a lot of things. I saw a review of the memorial by some idiot who does not understand what was going on, the idea that this was an attempt to try to heal without politicizing. Some people would want to have a memorial that is straight out of Steinbeck's In Dubious Battle with Segal's bodies there or something like that or somebody being raised up, dead bodies being raised up and, "We will never forget." It is a much more benign thing. It is a much more sensitive and quiet thing as well. When they were talking about the flowers, the Scheuers said that Sandy Scheuer's favorite flower was a lilac. Martin said to me, "It would be nice if they put a lilac bush there." There was a plaque, also, in that walkway that has the names of the kids who were wounded. Canfora's name is on the list there as well as the ones who were wounded.

So I went back. I was playing mediator, if you can believe it. I ran back over to where Schwartz was standing because the Scheuer's and I were walking down the pathway. I went back, and I said, "They want to know if we can plant a lilac bush there." Schwartz and the Vice President said, "Anything they want, anything they want." They really just wanted the Scheuers to be at the dedication. Schermer picked up the tab for the lilac bush, too. It is a nice lilac bush. The reason I am defensive about it is that somebody wrote a review, like I say, this past year and said that it is a stupid memorial that does not mean anything and there is even a dumb lilac bush in the middle of it.

H Do you remember who wrote it or where it was?

F It was in the Plain Dealer, I think. I do not remember.

H I will have to see if I can find it.

F They did not understand why that lilac bush is there. That is a very important living memorial.

H Being a journalist, you do not think they would ask.

F Well, I know why it was there because I was right there when the whole thing was done. So eventually what happens, the Scheuers agree to come, and I think, if I am not mistaken, one of the parents from Lorain came, too, to the opening. There were the speeches when it was dedicated. We went over. As a matter of fact, I went over with Pazol, the other trustee from Schermer. It was great. We had an incredible table. It was Pazol, the one trustee, myself, the other trustee, Rabbi Kornspan, who is the rabbi of Sandy Scheuer's temple, and Father Balasko. Father Balasko is the priest who is the cofounder of Christian-

Jewish dialogue We joked on the way over We are covered No matter what happens to us, we have a rabbi and a priest in the car

It was a nice day, even though it rained, I remember, on the dedication It was a capstone, I thought, of bringing the campus to closure There is no closure on something like this. But it was at least an effort on the part of people who were sincere People are always going to manipulate it People are always going to exploit what happened at Kent State But there were some people who genuinely wanted to try to bring people together That is the whole point It never is going to happen because there is always going to be that open wound The Scheuers are always going to mourn The radicals are always going to believe that this was something that was deliberately state-sponsored The people who are the hawks beyond Friedman are going to believe that the students got what they deserved which is not right Kent is always going to bear a stigma

End of Interview