

Four Dead In Kent Disaster

KENT, Ohio AP — Four students were shot to death and 11 other persons wounded, four seriously in a confrontation yesterday with Ohio National Guardsmen and police at Kent State University. A state official said the shooting started when a rooftop sniper opened fire on the guardsmen.

The dead were identified as Jeffrey Miller, 20, Plainview, N.Y.; Allison Krause, 19, Pittsburgh, Pa.; Sandy Lee Scheuer, 20, of Youngstown, Ohio; and William K. Schroeder, 19, Lorain, Ohio. Sandy Scheuer was a summer school student at YSU in 1969.

KSU Closed

The university, with an enrollment of 19,000, was closed and the town sealed off by police and guardsmen.

Gov. James A. Rhodes called on the FBI for help in probing the disorders.

The gunfire broke out as guardsmen dispersed an antiwar rally on the campus.

Adj. Gen. S. T. DelCorso said guardsmen

were forced to open fire on their attackers.

Nixon Issues Statement

In Washington, President Nixon issued a statement about the incident.

"This should remind us all once again that when dissent resorts to violence it invites tragedy," the President said.

"It is my hope 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 right which exists in this country of peaceful dissent and just as strongly against the resort to violence as a means of such expression."

The shooting came after guardsmen moved in with tear gas to disperse a rock-throwing crowd of 400 to 500 students in the Commons area near the football practice field.

"A lot of people felt their lives were in danger," said Brig. Gen. Robert Canterbury, who was on the scene, "which in fact was the case and the military man

always has the option to fire if he feels his life is in danger."

He has the right to protect himself."

DelCorso said tear gas was used several times in attempts to disperse the crowd.

"The guard expended its entire supply of tear gas and when it did, the mob started to move forward to encircle the guardsmen," DelCorso said. "At the same time, a sniper opened fire against the guardsmen from a nearby rooftop. All guardsmen were hit by rocks and bricks.

"Guardsmen facing almost certain injury and death were forced to open fire on the attackers."

University President Robert I. White asked all students, faculty and staff members to go home "as quickly as possible."

Twelve persons, including two guardsmen, were hospitalized in Ravenna and Akron. One guardsman was described as suffering from shock.