

NEWS RELEASE

University of Oregon

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(President Robert D. Clark issued the following statement Tuesday, May 5, over FL-3, the campus operated television station.)

The long agony of the American college community has now culminated in tragedy at Kent State University, a tragedy which brings a cry from the hearts of our country's young people for understanding and for love. In this time of mourning and sorrow, we must not turn away from the young as they stand before us and demand a new world where all men are brothers. The blood of a new generation which has been spilled from Vietnam to Ohio is witness to the urgency of their pleas. We cannot close our ears to them and continue on our present paths without suffering the retribution of a terrible holocaust.

We must say to our young people, "Give us your hands. You are ours. We are with you and are one of you. You shall not stand alone."

America mourns today for America. Alone in silence or together in our churches, we weep for the dream we seem to be losing. We must ask for the strength to come together in love and charity, to unite for peace, for brotherhood, and for a better world for all. We cannot find that world with guns or seek brotherhood with a bayonet. Only with love and prayer, and only with our young people beside us, can we succeed.

At the University of Oregon, some groups have called for a shutdown of campus activities. I do not know that such movements can be productive, but I do point out that, as usual, each student and instructor is free to govern his class activity as he sees fit, as long as the rights of others are respected. I believe that the University as a whole should express the sorrow that we feel. I am, therefore, requesting that all classes on Wednesday morning at the 9:30 period observe a moment of silence to mourn for our country and for the loss of young lives from Vietnam to Kent, Ohio. In further expression of our sorrow, I am ordering that the flag be flown at half staff from 1 p.m. today through Wednesday.

The President said he has talked Tuesday with some of the campus ministers about the possibility of a memorial service and will also discuss this matter with students. He also said he is sending a telegram of sympathy to the President of Kent State College.

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