

# Gas, bricks were no mistake

By MICHAEL BALL  
Columnist

I saw it.

The police clubbing one student marshal can be termed a mistake.

The police knocking out one student representative's tooth can be termed a mistake.

The demonstrators throwing bricks at police was not a mistake.

The police systematically gassing and regassing groups of three or more students and lobbing cannisters into the middle of people who might have just been curious was not a mistake.

by Phil Frank



Governor McNair calling in the National Guard was not a mistake.

These people know what they're doing and why they're doing it, but they don't know the results. I'm not that worldly but I've seen Plainfield, N.J., and to a lesser degree Boston, Mass., in the riot season. I had friends killed in Plainfield. Contrary to native belief, it can happen here.

McNair can come and sit on this university, if he wants to. McNair and Watson can keep all out-of-state residents out of USC, if they want to. But they and all the king's horses and all the king's men can't stop native polarization and native radicalization. History will not bypass South Carolina.

The agitators did not make the difference Monday. Inflammatory speeches were made but the take-over was dictated by spontaneous group conscience not "dirty, hippy commies."

I saw large numbers of natives in the crowd just as angry about the issues as anyone else. Even the moderates did not enjoy being gassed and pushed off a campus reputed to belong to them. No one who thought about it liked being considered a child of the state.

Yes, it's a generation thing. There are a lot of students older than their parents in terms of opinion cementing. There are those who belong to a now revolution. There are the majority who will have to choose their age soon.

While the stones of various ages were refusing to yield to any other viewpoint, few were really concerned about the physical well-being of the first floor squatters. If the Board of Trustees was really concerned for the present pain of their opponents and the future turmoil it would have forsaken some traditional power and yielded to the national civil law of no double jeopardy.

If McNair and Strum were really

concerned about the bodies of the demonstrators and bystanders, they would have kept police action to a minimum.

If the demonstrators were really concerned about the chance of being physically hurt, they wouldn't have been demonstrating; they would have shut up and let the Russell House arrestees face their punishments.

Sitting in the Administration Building I kept hearing Phil Ochs song running through my head:

It's always the old who lead us to the war.

It's always the young to fall,

## Senators want students' help

The following letter, dated May 11, 1970, was mailed to college newspaper editors and student body presidents.

Dear Mr. Wannamaker:

We share the sense of outrage which you and other Americans feel over the war in Southeast Asia. The recent invasion of Cambodia and the resumption of bombing of North Vietnam are only the latest in a long series of actions that mean more anguish and destruction on all sides.

We also share your sense of frustration in seeking to halt this endless war and senseless policy. We believe it is time Congress played the role assigned it by the Constitution in determining our involvement in military adventures abroad. This leadership role is long overdue.

This absence of leadership has had tragic results. We are shocked and grieved by the tragedy that occurred at Kent State. We share a sense of guilt because of the lack of alternatives provided by the Congress of the United States thus far. We hope our present effort will

provide a meaningful alternative.

Now look at what you've won, with the sabre and the gun, And tell me if it's worth it all. It's coming and it's coming down hard. The only variable left is the speed with which it comes.

We all know the cliché "Speed Kills." It does and it will.

Massive violence may not come to South Carolina this year. But it will come. Someone famous once said, "There are no observers, in a revolution."

If you don't want to choose sides, you'd better hide. And there are only a few hiding places left.

We urge you to direct your efforts to supporting Congressional action to cut off further funds for Southeast Asia except for the purpose of withdrawing troops safely and systematically, the exchange of prisoners, and asylum for Vietnamese who might feel threatened by our withdrawal.

This will come to a vote, probably within 30 days, when there will be an official roll call on this amendment requiring every Senator to go on record for or against continued funding of the war. Similar efforts are underway in the House of Representatives.

Will you do all in your power to generate public support for a victorious roll call to end the war? Your letters, phone calls, petitions and personal visits to your Senators and Congressmen are urgently needed now and during the next three or four crucial weeks.

GEORGE MCCOY, SEN.  
MARK O. JAFFE, E.D.  
CHARLES GOODSELL,  
ALAN CRANSTON,  
HAROLD HUGHES

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