

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 5/12/70

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[REDACTED] ROTC Unit, Kent State University (KSU), advised that the destroyed ROTC building was a white wood frame building, dimensions of which were fifty feet by one hundred fifty feet. He stated that the building was owned by KSU and not by the Department of the Army. [REDACTED] provided a temporary itemized list of Government equipment lost in the fire and stated that the Commanding General of the U.S. Armor Center, Fort Knox, Kent is establishing a board to determine if the supplies and equipment lost in the ROTC building will be written off of the books and some of the custody records were lost in the fire. [REDACTED] advised that the Army has approximately 60 days to establish the board and make their determination. Itemized list provided by [REDACTED] totaling \$32,543.55 is attached but [REDACTED] advised that his supply officer is continuing in his attempt to determine if there is any more Government property which was lost in the fire. [REDACTED] original estimate of the loss was \$35,000. [REDACTED] advised that KSU made an official estimate of the value of the burned building of \$50,000.

He also advised that the ROTC building was the ROTC Administrative Headquarters and also houses the KSU rifle range. He advised that the rifle club was sponsored by ROTC and that the range was constructed primarily for ROTC use and that the building is a National Defense facility.

[REDACTED] advised that all weapons, a list of which is attached, were completely destroyed by the fire and were turned into the Army Organizational Maintenance Shop, Akron, Ohio, being totally unserviceable. He advised that his training, supply, recruiting, funds, administrative documents were destroyed in the fire but that no monies were destroyed. He advised that the students' personnel files and all classified material were saved by being placed in a fireproof safe, but that the personnel files of the ROTC staff were destroyed in the fire. He advised that the permanent staff ROTC files were maintained by the Department of the Army in Washington, D.C. [REDACTED] advised that ROTC is not compulsory on the KSU campus and has been voluntary since its establishment in 1947.

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[redacted] advised there was a large sign, two feet by four and a half feet, over the doorway at the north end of the building, which read "Military Science." He also advised that on the same end of the building, there was a large round ROTC seal, 24 inches in diameter, which stated that the building contained "Army ROTC."

[redacted] advised that he was responsible for physical control of the ROTC building and that to the best of his knowledge, [redacted] of the Business and Finance Section, was responsible for the building itself as the building is owned by the University.

[redacted] provided a photograph of the building showing the entire building before its destruction including the aforementioned signs.

[redacted] advised that there are presently numerous security members at the KSU campus who are vehemently against ROTC and the presence of ROTC on the KSU campus. He advised that the following groups of students on campus were definitely against ROTC and its presence on the campus:

Young Socialist Alliance (YSA)
Black United Students (BUS)
Student Mobilization Committee (SMC)
Moratorium Committee

[redacted] advised that he did not know any specific individuals in the aforementioned organizations.

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<u>ITEM</u>	<u>QTY</u>	<u>ITEM COST</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Sling Flag Staff	2	\$ 14.80	\$ 29.60
Thermofax Duplicating Stencil Unit	1	772.00	772.00
Desk Type Right Ped	2	82.00	164.00
Desk Type Left Ped	1	82.00	82.00
Desk Dble Ped	8	75.00	600.00
Cup, Canteen	80	1.13	90.40
Trousers OG 107	93	2.20	204.60
Liner, Helmet	60	2.50	150.00
Typewriter	1	411.00	411.00
Telephone TA-1/PT	2	40.18	80.36
Rack Rifle	7	68.55	479.85
Pistol Cal. 45	1	57.00	57.00
Rifle Cal. 22	20	116.00	2320.00
Rifle Cal. M-1	90	94.33	8487.00
Rifle Cal. M-14	50	122.00	6100.00
Tool Kit Armor	1	66.00	66.00
Shirt OG 107	106	2.20	233.20
Intrenching Tool Comb	40	3.20	128.00
Compass Loretic	25	8.31	207.75
Field Jacket	59	9.80	578.20
Typewriter 13" Non Elec	2	218.00	436.00
Duplication Thermofax	1	377.00	377.00
Table Work	1	110.00	110.00
Carrier Intrenching Tool	40	1.29	51.60
Case First Aid Field	80	.34	27.20
Foot Measuring Device	1	47.50	47.50
Sock Wool	1	.64	.64
Poncho Nylon OG 207	80	5.25	420.00
Table Field	6	11.90	71.40
Telescope M-48	3	181.00	543.00
Telescopes	4	124.00	496.00
Filing Cab with comb/lock	2	530.00	1060.00
Top Book Case	5	3.85	19.25
Shelter Half	70	8.59	601.30
Cover Canteen	95	1.16	110.20
Coat Shooting	10	5.35	53.50
Chair W/O Arms	2	19.00	38.00
Camera, Polaroid	1	70.00	70.00
Projectors/Complete	2	1000.00	2000.00
Carousel Slids Projector	1	110.00	110.00
Yasuka Reflex Camera	1	100.00	100.00
Rear View Screen & Kit	1	100.00	100.00
Case, Color Polaroid	1		
Case, B & W Polaroid	1	110.00	110.00
Case, 35mm Film	1		
Case, Recording Tapes	1		
Case, Flashbulb	1		

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<u>ITEM</u>	<u>O/E</u>	<u>ITEM COST</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Canteen Plastic	20	\$.21	\$ 22.00
Misc GSA Supplies		1000.00	1000.00
Misc Camera		150.00	150.00
Entire Library Books		2500.00	2500.00
Boots Combat Black	20	10.25	201.00
Helmet Linner	60	6.90	111.00

TOTAL: \$32,543.55

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 6096775
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 1149423
 5185532
 1044591
 3273889
 5181217
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 3274255
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 5186395
 3747306
 2936880
 3841442
 24209
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 1714696
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 6097503
 3836605
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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 5/7/70

(1)

[REDACTED] ROTC
 Kent, Ohio, furnished the following information concerning the burning of East Hall, ROTC Headquarters on Kent State University (KSU) campus on the evening of May 2, 1970:

[REDACTED] advised that in his opinion the burning of the building was planned in advance as he had received information from [REDACTED] on the morning of May 2, 1970 at approximately 3:00 AM to the effect that certain students might attempt to cause damage to the ROTC building or disrupt ROTC activities during the day of Saturday, May 2, 1970. He explained the Junior ROTC class of cadets was scheduled to go to the high velocity rifle ranges on Saturday and approximately 41 cadets would be in attendance.

Prior to the class leaving for the rifle ranges aboard U.S. Army trucks, [REDACTED] was present and saw several students watching the class load onto the trucks and these students were standing near the Kent State Union building observing their departure. There were no incidents and the class went to the ranges at approximately 7:00 AM.

While the class was at the ranges, [REDACTED] received a call from [REDACTED] at approximately 10:30 AM and [REDACTED] indicated that if possible the ROTC class should not return to campus in the Army vehicles as the students might possibly feel that the National Guard had been called to the University. [REDACTED] complied with the request of [REDACTED] and upon the cadets' return to the Kent area, they transferred the cadets to a University bus at the National Armory and then proceeded to the campus.

Upon their arrival at the ROTC building, approximately 10 to 12 students simultaneously appeared at the Student Union entrance and approximately six to eight proceeded toward the bus at the ROTC building. Upon the cadets' departure from the University bus, the six to eight students began to heckle every cadet departing from the bus. In particular, [REDACTED] remembers one individual who heckled every Negro cadet and stated something like the following to each: "What are you

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[REDACTED]

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BA [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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in that uniform black men. You have no rights in this country and shouldn't be wearing that uniform," [redacted] advised that the cadets did not respond to the heckling and immediately entered the ROTC rifle range doorway carrying their M-14 rifles in order to clean guns. [redacted] advised that the heckling individuals remained outside the building and none attempted to enter it. On one occasion, an individual from the group indicated that it was thought by the students that the ROTC cadets were members of the National Guard and [redacted] explained to this individual that it was only the ROTC class returning from the rifle ranges. This unrecalled person relayed this information to the observing students.

[redacted] advised that none of the individuals who participated in the heckling and who were watching the Student Union building were familiar to him.

On the evening of May 2, 1970, [redacted] was telephonically contacted by an ROTC officer who indicated that East Hall had been set on fire and was burning. [redacted] went to the scene of the fire and at that time the building was engulfed in flames and could not be saved. He stood nearby with several other ROTC staff officers during the fire and while they were there a couple of officers were attempting to find a key to an Air Force vehicle which was parked in the close proximity to the burning building. While these officers were searching for a key to move the vehicle, [redacted] noted an individual standing with them whom he had seen around campus in the recent past. This individual indicated that he had been around campus during previous demonstrations and that he had possibly been around when the fire was started.

[redacted] could describe that individual as follows:

Race	White
Sex	Male
Age	20-22
Hair	Blond
Build	Tall - Slender
Clothing	Dungarees and slopy appearance

This individual is possibly employed by the University in some capacity, perhaps in maintenance work.

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Also present at this time was [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] may know the name of the above described young man.

At this time [REDACTED] would estimate the value of the building and [REDACTED] inside as being in the vicinity of \$35,000. [REDACTED] could not identify any individuals who were watching the fire and did not hear any names mentioned as to who were the individuals who started the fire.

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Date 5/11/70

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[redacted] Kent State University (KSU) campus, was interviewed concerning the burning of the ROTC building on May 2, 1970 at KSU.

[redacted] advised that at approximately 8:00 on May 2, 1970, he received a call from [redacted]

[redacted] Kent, Ohio, telephone number [redacted] advising him that the South and East Hall was on fire. He also indicated that there was one fire truck at the scene and students were rushing the truck and the firemen throwing rocks and cutting the fire hoses with machetes.

[redacted] arrived at campus approximately 8:05 and about that time a second group of fire trucks were early at the scene of the fire, as the first truck had shortly been forced to depart the area by students' actions. Upon his arrival, [redacted] noted numerous students watching the fire from the driveway above the building. [redacted] noted that [redacted] told him that he had been playing tennis on the Court when the fire started.

[redacted] advised he took no specific action as the fire was being put out and only talked with other state officers in the area.

[redacted] could not recall the names of any students watching the fire but advised that the following individuals may be able to furnish information concerning persons present at the fire or involved in the actual burning:

- [redacted] a.k.a. [redacted]
- [redacted]
- [redacted]

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] advised that he recalls seeing two motorcycles parked in the parking lot at the rear of the burning building and he heard rumors that the demonstrators were dipping in the gas tanks of these motorcycles to make torches.

Some of the cadets are possibly residing at 123 Crane Street, Kent, Ohio, and could possibly furnish information as to the present whereabouts of the above listed individuals.

[REDACTED] indicated that earlier in the day on Saturday he assisted in taking the ROTC class to and from the high velocity rifle ranges and upon their return at campus, he recalls hecklers being at the bus trying to talk to each cadet. He heard several comments indicating that the ROTC building might possibly be burned down and although he has heard similar comments in the past, [REDACTED] on this occasion, thought it wise to take home several personal items that evening. When he left the building, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] and also [REDACTED] were still with the class.

[REDACTED] advised that all of the weapons were in the building when it was burned and all had been recovered after the fire.

IV. BURNING OF THE ROTC BUILDING
B. INTERVIEWS WITH ROTC CADETS

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Date 5/9/70

1. [REDACTED]
 Md., telephone [REDACTED] furnished the following information:

He is 20 years of age and a junior at Kent State University (KSU), Kent, Ohio, where he is majoring in political science. His address at KSU is Room [REDACTED] Dunbar Hall, Box [REDACTED] Kent, Ohio.

On Saturday, May 2, 1970, he participated in an ROTC training exercise at Malvern, Ohio, which consisted of familiarization with the M-14 rifle on the range at Malvern. Approximately 3:30 PM, he returned to KSU campus along with the others who participated in the exercise. When he got on the bus, about 10 hippie-type individuals were in the area of the ROTC building. The only person he recognized was [REDACTED] who is a KSU student, a junior, and who formerly was in ROTC. [REDACTED] was taking photographs of the ROTC students getting off the bus.

He [REDACTED] then went into the ROTC building and cleaned the weapons which were used that day. He then went to his residence at Dunbar Hall.

About 7-8 PM on May 2, 1970, a friend of his, [REDACTED] Room [REDACTED] Dunbar Hall, told him that the ROTC Building was on fire. [REDACTED] and he went to a hill that overlooks the ROTC building. He observed that the ROTC building was burning and a large crowd was near the building cheering.

He then went to the center of the Commons which is about 150 yards from the ROTC building. He watched the building burn and also saw some KSU students whom he knew by sight, cannot identify by name, and some other individuals who he does not know if they were students or not. These people were all just on-lookers and were not destroying any property.

He stayed there about three to five minutes after which some policemen arrived. These policemen, whom he does not know what department they were from, began to shoot five or six canisters of gas onto the Commons. He and his roommates

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[REDACTED], then went back to the top of the hill which is referred to as "Blanket Hill" and took another look at the people who were running from the Commons. Then [REDACTED] and he went back to Dunbar Hall, arriving about 8 PM. [REDACTED] returned to Dunbar Hall several hours later. He does not know any of the names of the persons he saw while he was away from Dunbar Hall.

He was in Dunbar Hall about one-half hour and he saw the flames of another fire about 8:30 PM. [REDACTED] and he then went to the sun deck of Prentice Hall and saw that the girls physical education shack was on fire. People were around it trying to put out the fire with fire extinguishers. He watched the fire for several minutes and then helped pass buckets of water to put out the fire. The fire was put out and he then returned to the sun deck of Prentice Hall and watched what was going on. He just saw people milling around all of whom were unknown to him by name and most were unknown to him by sight.

About 9 PM, May 2, 1970, the ROTC building had caught on fire. He was still on the sun deck of Prentice Hall. Police were at the ROTC building. At this time the National Guard (NG) arrived around the side of Taylor building. A crowd in the area ran in all directions. About 9:30 PM, [REDACTED] left the sun deck and returned to Dunbar Hall where he stayed the rest of that night.

The next morning, May 3, 1970, about 11 AM, [REDACTED] and checked the ruins of the ROTC building. He helped clean up the arms room and assisted in the clean up operation until about 2 PM. He then went back to Dunbar Hall and slept until 6 PM. Then from Dunbar Hall, he watched the NG attempt to disperse the crowd with tear gas. About 11 PM, he saw an Ohio State Patrol helicopter hovering above the crowd attempting to disperse the crowd. The NG left the area of his dorm at 11:45 PM that night.

On Monday, May 4, 1970, he went to his 8 AM class. Then he went to the ROTC building and helped clean up the remaining debris. He stayed there until 12 noon and then attended a rally of about 1,500 - 2,000 students held on the Commons. This crowd was told by the city police to disperse which they did not do. The NG started to use tear gas which this crowd left and went to the hill. None of the people were known to him. Some of the people in the crowd picked up the tear gas canisters and threw them back at the NG. This lasted for about one hour.

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The crowd gathered again and school officials tried to get them to leave. Most of the people did leave. This was about 2 PM. About 300 - 400 people from the crowd did disperse and they went up the hill behind Taylor Hall. He could not see what went on behind Taylor Hall. He then heard about a ten-second volley of rifle fire which consisted of what sounded like 40 - 50 rounds. He did not hear any single shot prior to the volley.

He saw a student photographer running down the hill to the area where the police and NG were and stopped and handed over a pistol to them. This photographer, the police, and the NG are all unknown to him. There was another person, another photographer who is [redacted] who is a graduate student at KSU.

He saw ambulances go up the hill and then heard over the NG radio that four students had been killed. One of the National Guardsmen told him that there was a confirmed report of a sniper. This National Guardsman was unknown to him.

At 3 PM, Dr. FRANK announced that the university was closed. He went to Dunbar Hall, packed his bags, and got in his car, after which he took four students off campus with him. He drove these students to their residences and spent the night in Cleveland, Ohio. On Tuesday morning, May 5, 1970, he continued on to his residence in [redacted] Md.

[redacted] advised he cannot identify any hippie-type individuals on campus during the night of the burning of the ROTC building. He has no knowledge of any people conspiring to burn the ROTC building. He has no knowledge of anyone's civil rights being violated. [redacted] did recall that two residents of Dunbar Hall, [redacted] they were in the dormitory Saturday night and they both said they had heard individuals in the crowd that night who were going to burn the ROTC building. The names of these individuals that said they were going to burn the ROTC building are not known to [redacted].

[redacted] also recalled that [redacted] a ROTC friend who resides in River View Apartments, stated he did not see the ROTC building and he had observed someone throw something through a window into the ROTC building. Also, [redacted] reported he saw a police officer aim a gun at a student on the hill Saturday night.

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or [redacted] also recalled that [redacted] and [redacted]
on. [redacted] stated they were in the crowd that was fired

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GRAIG ALAN MORGAN, 266 ~~Brookwood Road~~ Columbus, Ohio (488-7087), a student at Kent State University (KSU), Kent, Ohio, was interviewed at the residence of ~~_____~~

~~_____~~ Maryland. He furnished the following information:

Although **MORGAN** is a ROTC Cadet, he did not attend a drill on Saturday, May 2, 1970, at KSU. He is a KSU Student Senator and spent the day at the Student Activity Center organizing teams of faculty and student marshals. These teams were organized because a number of KSU students had staged a violent anti-war demonstration on the previous evening in the City of Kent, Ohio, and it was feared that there may be additional demonstrations. **MORGAN** was not present at the demonstrations on May 1, 1970, but he heard that a number of windows were broken and the city authorities had set a curfew.

At about 7:00 p.m. or 7:30 p.m., on May 2, 1970, **MORGAN** was in the Student Activity Center and observed a crowd of about 500 students gathering some distance away, near the Victory Bell. The leaders of the gathering, none of whom was known to **MORGAN**, were attempting to promote a demonstration by shouting anti-war slogans. The group then marched past about ten dormitories, shouting for other to join them and chanting anti-war slogans.

About one hour later the crowd had increased to about 2500 students, but most were spectators rather than participants. They again gathered near the Victory Bell and some began chanting "ROTC off campus." At this time, ~~_____~~ a highly regarded Negro student, who is active in "Left Wing" student politics, spoke to the students in an effort to disperse them, but they paid no attention to him. **MORGAN**, accompanied by ~~_____~~ went into the crowd and talked to people individually but were ineffective in attempting to break up the crowd.

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At about 9:15 p.m., a white male, about 6' tall, 170 pounds, with black hair, in his late teens or early 20's, possibly wearing a red jacket, ran toward the ROTC Building which was locked and unoccupied at this time. He was carrying what looked like a lighted flare and used it to break a window and then threw it into the building. Others in the crowd threw rocks at the building. Very soon thereafter flames could be seen inside the building.

When the fire department arrived, shortly thereafter to fight the fire in the ROTC Building, a few people, none of whom were known to MORGAN, began throwing rocks about the size of golf balls at the firemen. The crowd got a hold of a fire hose and somehow managed to cut the hose. [REDACTED] a KSU student, was in the immediate vicinity when the hose was cut and may have been shouting anti-war slogans at that time.

About 20 University Police, wearing helmets and carrying nightsticks, arrived to protect the firemen. At about this time another demonstrator carrying a chain in his hand, threateningly approached the firemen and tried to encourage the crowd to follow him. The fireman turned a water hose on him which drove him back and no one else in the crowd followed him. This student was a white male, 6'5" - 6'6" tall, very heavy (muscular) build, light complexion, having straight black hair and a mustache. MORGAN does not know this student by name but recognized him as a KSU student who participated in demonstrations last year and is rumored to be a military veteran.

The fire at the ROTC Building was extinguished and the firemen left the campus. Someone then set fire to a small storage building (about ten feet square) at the opposite end of the campus. MORGAN and other students used buckets of water and fire extinguishers to put out this fire and as they were doing so, they saw the ROTC Building again burst into flames. This time the flames were about 50 to 60 feet high and when the firemen returned they were unable to save the building. The National Guard arrived with the firemen and used tear gas to clear the grounds and enforce a curfew.

[REDACTED] a graduate student who works for the Student Government kept a written account of the events of May 4, 1970.

One student who tried to persuade MORGAN to join the demonstrators while the ROTC Building was burning the fire was RUTH GIBSON. This conversation was in the ROTC Building.

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of [redacted] and [redacted] MORGAN did not actually see her throw anything or light a fire, but she verbally encouraged the burning of the building. During this conversation, MORGAN advised GIPSON that there was live ammunition in the building and he refused to join the group of demonstrators. She then responded that it was his responsibility to warn the other students about the ammunition.

Others who were present and participated in chanting anti-war slogans and who can possibly identify leaders of the group are [redacted]

[redacted] Faculty members present that night who may be able to identify some of the demonstrators are [redacted] and Doctor (First Name Unknown) FRANK. MORGAN later heard that Doctor FRANK broke up a group of students who were beating up a fireman.

MORGAN came to Washington, D.C. on May 6, 1970 with CHARLES PIERCE, MARTIN KURYLA, JOANNE ZIMORA, MARK COHEN and WILLIAM SLOCUM. They have been meeting with United States Senators about the events at KSU and the United States policy in Vietnam. They may leave Washington, D.C. shortly, but can be located through telephone number 678-1730, Kent, Ohio. This telephone is at the apartment of JOANNE ZIMORA and there is normally someone in the apartment to answer the telephone.

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[redacted] white male born May 28, 19 [redacted] Newark, New Jersey, [redacted] New Jersey telephone [redacted] was advised that he did not have to make a statement, that any statement made by him could be used against him in a court of law and that prior to making a statement he had the right to consult with an attorney. He furnished the following information:

He is a senior student in the College of Arts and Sciences at Kent State University (KSU), majoring in pre-law. He is also a member of the Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC) and has been since his freshman year. He resides off campus Kent State, his address being [redacted] Apartments. The apartment building is located 2-3 blocks from Fran Hall.

His roommates are [redacted] New Jersey; [redacted] New Jersey; [redacted] Ohio, and [redacted] Wooster, Ohio.

On the night of May 2, 1970, he was in his apartment with his roommates [redacted] and [redacted]. The other two roommates were at their homes. He heard about the burning of the ROTC building at KSU on the radio but was not present at the site nor did he go to the site that day. He first saw the results of the burning while on campus the following day.

He advised that he has no information pertaining to the identity of any suspects. He advised that no one has made a statement to him which would indicate that they might know the identity of the perpetrators. He stated that he is well known as an ROTC student and that he wears his uniform on the campus days a week. These days are Tuesdays and Thursdays when it is obligatory to attend the Corps drill between 12:05 P.M. and 1:10 P.M. on the "Commons".

[redacted] had an 11:00 AM class on Monday, May 4, 1970, at Bowman Hall. He was released from class at approximately 20 minutes before 12:00 because of the demonstration.

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