

BSNU POSITION PAPER

As a campus based organization, with an allegiance to a much larger community, it is imperative that we state our position on the National Student Association Strike, and its counterpart on this campus.

1. Kent State

The death of the four Kent State students was a very tragic event for Kent State and the parents of those students. However it would be hypocritical of this organization and its members to pretend that these deaths have rendered us emotionally bankrupt; for many of us, and the vast majority of Black people, death and suffering has become a very real part of life:

"On February 8, police and national guardsmen in Orangeburg, S.C., opened fire on a group of black college students gathered around a bonfire on the campus of South Carolina State College. Three students were shot to death, 37 more wounded. Two of the dead students were later found to have been shot in the back, as were a majority of the wounded. One student died of loss of blood after he was refused admission to segregated Orangeburg Regional Hospital. Two weeks later, police shot into a crowd of Black student's demonstrating at Mississippi's Alcorn A&M College. Six were wounded, two hospitalized."

Commonweal, 19, April 1968

For Black people the problem of death is part of the sobering reality of our survival.

2. National Strike

We are in sympathy with the stated purpose of the National Strike:

- a. The release of "political prisoners in the United States. (The Black Panthers, the Chicago Conspiracy Defendants, and others);
- b. An end to escalation of the Vietnam War; and
- c. A halt in university complicity with the military establishment.

We do, however, feel the necessity to distinguish between means and ends. We do not support the abandonment of all academic activities for an indefinite length of time. We feel that a truly sincere commitment involves a personal rather than an institutional sacrifice.

May 6, 1970