

from two separate events: an iconic photo of a lilac in a guardsman's gun barrel and Allison Krause's statement that "flowers are better than bullets" (p. 80). Indeed, the authors' discussion of the dynamic processes of memory and narrative provides some of the most compelling and insightful reading, addressing both the causes and results of potential inconsistencies between historical and psychological truths.

The last chapter traces the work of numerous individuals and groups in commemorating the Kent State shootings over a period of more than forty years. Readers may thus need to adjust their pacing expectations, as the first four chapters address the events of four days. Thus, a section entitled "From Bruno Ast to the May 4 Visitors Center" (i.e., from 1990 to 2012) covers roughly five pages. Simpson and Wilson's discussion in this chapter is rooted loosely in the interdisciplinary scholarly literature on collective memory, including Kenneth E. Foote's *Shadowed Ground* (1997), but readers who are particularly

interested in the history of debate and contestation over commemoration of the Kent State shootings may prefer to seek out additional sources. This is a minor criticism, however, given the scope of the work and the focus of the oral history interviews.

In sum, *Above the Shots* provides a critical and engaging analysis of the events leading up to and following the 1970 shootings at Kent State. At a time when Americans have begun to re-examine publicly the relationship between government and protestors, this book should be mandatory reading for both scholars and citizens.

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The Ohio State University in the Sixties: The Unraveling of the Old Order

By William J. Shkurti

(Columbus: Ohio State University Press, 2016. Pp. 390. Illustrations, notes, bibliographic note, index. \$39.95.)

As a graduate of Ohio State University (class of '68) and a senior vice president of business and finance at OSU,

William J. Shkurti is working on familiar ground in this history of his alma mater in the 1960s. However, there is

very little in this narrative that would indicate any personal involvement. It is instead a thorough institutional account of the university's growth, finances, research, political challenges, student enrollment, faculty, and personnel changes during this tumultuous decade in American history. Working chronologically, the author marches readers from 1960 to 1970.

Shkurti has mined all the usual sources: the student newspaper, yearbooks, alumni magazines, university archives, local newspapers, related secondary sources, and extensive interviews with students, faculty, and administrators. While many other histories of universities during this decade focus more directly on student activists, this author takes a systemic approach, examining the university as an organization operating within a wider framework of local and state politics and national events. His interest lies less in personalities of individual actors than in the framework of their activities.

The climax of this story occurs when students went on strike for two weeks in late April and early May 1970. The first week of the shutdown began with protests by African American students who led a crowd of about 2,000 students to strike against what they labeled "100 Years of Racism" (p. 314). The second week coincided with protests on campuses across the nation following President Richard Nixon's announcement of the United States military invasion of Cambodia and the subsequent killing of four students during protests at neighboring

Kent State University. Given these dramatic events, readers might expect to be prepared for a prolonged eruption of student anger. However, chapters leading up to these weeks lead one to believe that there were very few alienated members of the student body, and that earlier political acts by outliers like Students for a Democratic Society had been sparsely attended and ineffective. So the finale comes as a bit of a surprise. Where did these challenges to authority come from?

Shkurti concludes that the source of most student frustration was not really political at all. It was a broader sense of alienation brought on by the impersonality of the "megaversity" (p. 207). Enormous increases in enrollment, huge new dormitory towers, an antiquated system of course scheduling, hikes in tuition and room and board fees, and larger classes taught by graduate assistants—all contributed to an eruption of anger in 1970. There is very little discussion here of the growing political consciousness that was rife on campuses across the country during the 1960s. While the author does an admirable job of describing the pursuits of research faculty and state political battles, there is not a compelling narrative of growing antiwar, civil rights, and women's rights sentiments. The author interviewed several former students, but their voices are hard to hear in this account, especially the ones most likely to have been part of an activist movement that was present at every major university campus at that time. Shkurti has written a solid institutional history of OSU in the

1960s, paving the way, perhaps, for an account that sheds light on those students who tried to change the university and the country during that decade.

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