

“BRINGING BUSINESS BACK HOME”

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Greetings to All!

How about a complete change of pace for this message - a book review!

This weekend I read **Kent State: Four Dead in Ohio** by Derf Backderf. It is not your typical prose novel on the happenings at Kent State in May of 1970, but a graphic novel, that wonderful combination of art & words. It was supposed to arrive at book stores just before the 50th anniversary of May 4th, 1970, but like so many things this year it was delayed until last week due to the current pandemic.

This almost 300 page book follows the life of four students who died on May 4th, during the time frame of May 1st through May 4th. But it also visits all the key players who participated in the events that lead up to that May 4th afternoon. It does more than visit, with extensive interviews and research by the author, it probes into the what & why of how so many different actions by those who were there led to this great tragedy on a local college campus.

As you read about these four young students, you get a very good idea of what life at the Kent State University was like at that time. And you are shown what it was like for the National Guardsmen, who had just come off duty at Richfield where they were helping to stop a trucker’s strike. As I read through what happened May 1st, then May 2nd, and into May 3rd, I learned so many facts about this event, many that I have never read before in all the stories published in our local newspapers when the anniversary arrives every year. Again the author does an exceptional job of relating to you these facts in an order that leads to an understanding of what is to come.

Now I want to tell you that I had an outside influence acting on me as I read the later part of the book. My wife was binge-watching **Brothers & Sisters**, so as I read page after page knowing what was about to happen, the TV in the background was showing the actor Rob Lowe in the hospital having a heart attack. The music was picking up the tempo as Rob Lowe’s character was dying on the hospital table, and there I was just at the point on May 4th reading the events leading up to the National Guardsman firing their rifles. By coincidence both dramatic actions happened at the same time, so when I turned the page and saw the first death, a student shot through the mouth, I had to close the book and look away. This is why art AND story work so well together in a graphic novel, you have to read quite a few paragraphs in a regular book to get to the point where you can picture the scene in your mind, but the comic art page is just there, and has the impact of casting the scene in your mind instantly. Having just spent several hours reading up to this tragic moment, with the music from the TV climaxing at this first death, it just overwhelmed my senses. I just could not read any more that evening.

The next morning after breakfast, I finished the book. Even now as I write this two days later, I am still trying to sort out all that I read. I think I need to give this recommendation to you, my fellow Kenmore Chamber members, who live so close to where this all happened, and maybe even were around back in May of 1970, that you have to go to a local book store or look on-line and purchase a copy. The dust jacket says “...the bitter cost of dissent is as relevant today as it was in 1970”. Please read this book and decide for yourself if this is true.



Thank you for listening, and be safe!

John Buntin Jr, President
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Akron Beacon Journal's "Best of ..." Awards

The Akron Beacon Journal released their "Best of ..." awards last month, and although the rules have changed somewhat, two of our Kenmore Chamber members still made the list. They were **Reeves Cake Top Shop** with 1st place in Bakery/Cakes category and **State Farm Todd Young** with 1st place in the Insurance Company category. Addresses and phone numbers to these fine Kenmore Chamber of Commerce members can be found on-line in your **Kenmore Chamber of Commerce Business Directory** at www.kenmorechamber.org.



KBOT FLASHBACK

- 10 Years Ago - October 2010**
 - ⊕ **Scott M. Smith**, President
 - ⊕ Luncheon guest speaker was Rick Morella of the City of Akron, who spoke about the future plans for Young's Restaurant (which is now demolished).
- 15 Years Ago - October 2005**
 - ⊕ **John Buntin Jr**, President
 - ⊕ Sam Salem promoted the Kenmore High School Class of '45's Flag Raising Ceremony scheduled for October 15th at the Kenmore High School.
 - ⊕ Three Kenmore community school Principals spoke about the School Levy 78.
- 20 Years Ago - October 2000**
 - ⊕ **Jill Stevenson**, President
 - ⊕ No information available.
- 25 Years Ago - October 1995**
 - ⊕ **Mary Lu Warstler**, President
 - ⊕ Guest Speaker was Judge Elinore Marsh Stormer, who spoke about the Akron Municipal Court system.
- 30 Years Ago - October 1990**
 - ⊕ **Ann K. Morrow**, President
 - ⊕ Plans made for the annual Halloween Parade.
- 35 Years Ago - October 1985**
 - ⊕ **David E. Whitmire**, President
 - ⊕ The KBOT voted to donate \$250 to the Kenmore High School "STOP" drug counseling program.
- 40 Years Ago - October 1980**
 - ⊕ **Mel Kent**, President
 - ⊕ Ralph Creed, Rev Dale Smith, Robert Prentice, Alex More, and Jasper McCutchan formed a new committee for Senior Housing in the Kenmore area.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW KCOOC MEMBERS!

<p>Bush's Quality Fireplace Quality Fireplace Aaron Bush 11216 Gladstone Road SW Warren, Ohio 44481-9500 330-538-2367 www.bushfireplace.com</p>	<p>CNV Creative Digital Marketing Nicholas Volinchak 1393 Cross Cove Austintown, Ohio 44515-3879 330-610-2567 www.cnvcreative.com</p>	<p>Collision Pros. OH LLC Automotive Body Shop Jack Mills 2131 Wadsworth Road Norton, Ohio 44203-5335 330-472-5932 www.collisionprosoh.com</p>
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