

**SELECTED CHRONOLOGY OF  
POLITICAL PROTESTS AND  
EVENTS IN LAWRENCE**

**1960-1973**

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## INTRODUCTION

*Civil Rights & Black Power Movements.* Lawrence, the Free State or anti-slavery capital of Kansas during Bleeding Kansas, was dubbed the "Cradle of Liberty" by Abraham Lincoln. Partly due to this reputation, a vibrant Black community developed in the town in the years following the Civil War. White Lawrencians were fairly tolerant of Black people during this period, though three Black men were lynched from the Kaw River Bridge in 1882 during an economic depression in Lawrence. When the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in 1894 that "separate but equal" was constitutional, racial attitudes hardened. Gradually Jim Crow segregation was instituted in the former bastion of freedom with many facilities becoming segregated around the time Black Poet Laureate Langston Hughes lived in the city as a child. Then in the 1920s a Ku Klux Klan rally with a burning cross was attended by 2,000 hooded participants near Centennial Park. Racial discrimination subsequently became rampant and segregation solidified.

Change was in the air after World War II. The Lawrence League for the Practice of Democracy (LLPD) formed in 1945 and was in the vanguard of Post-war efforts to end racial segregation and discrimination. This was a bi-racial group composed of many KU faculty and Lawrence residents. A chapter of Congress on Racial Equality (CORE) formed in Lawrence in 1947 and on April 15 of the following year, 25 members held a sit-in at Brick's Cafe to force it to serve everyone equally. Before 1948, Blacks could not enjoy a hamburger in most Lawrence restaurants—they had to get them to go. In 1952, the Negro Student Association attempted to desegregate several cafes. After the U.S. Supreme Court overturned its "separate but equal" doctrine in *Brown v. Topeka Board of Education* in 1954 efforts really picked up. KU Chancellor Franklin Murphy threatened in that year to show free first-run movies on campus unless theaters stopped segregating Blacks. The theater owners quickly gave in and in the next few years the Eldridge Hotel restaurant and several taverns ended their exclusionary policies. In 1959, a city ordinance was passed banning discrimination in restaurants. However, even by 1960 many public accommodations in Lawrence remained segregated and racial discrimination in housing and employment was widespread. Due to Civil Rights protests, a city public accommodations ordinance was passed in 1965. The Civil Rights Movement did have notable successes in Lawrence from 1960-67, but by 1968 the Black Power Movement was overshadowing the original movement. The militancy of the Black Power Movement coupled with the civil unrest in 1970 brought even more changes to the Cradle of Liberty.

*It happened with such momentum because a people had kept their eyes on the prize, had persisted in a vision of a more perfect union, had waded through rivers of blood to keep promises to their foreparents and to their children. Such unyielding commitment and action eventually builds its own momentum, creates new, surprising realities, beginning deep within individual lives, opening up to the re-creation of society.*

--Vincent Harding from *Eyes on the Prize Civil Rights Reader* (1991)

*Peace and Anti-war Movements.* The peace movement in America became concerned about the

nuclear arms race beginning in the late 1950s. Many factors contributed to this growing concern including the U-2 Affair, Berlin Crisis, and deployment of ICBMs in 1959. These events combined with a public awareness growing about Strontium 90 and Iodine 131 in milk caused many Americans to become worried about the real possibility of the nuclear war. See the Appendix for details. During the 1960 presidential campaign John Kennedy exploited existing tensions between the United States and the Soviet Union in order to link his opponent Richard Nixon to what he called the complacency of the Eisenhower administration. Kennedy contended that a missile gap, in favor of the Soviets, existed due to a lack of resolve on the part of the previous administration. Pledging that he would close the missile gap Kennedy sought to portray himself as a president who would be firm with the Soviets. Shortly after his election, evidence of a missile gap did surface--with the US greatly outpacing the Soviets. Kennedy, of course, knew this even during the campaign but continued to make the charge. Despite the superiority of U.S. strategic forces, Kennedy went ahead with an accelerated deployment of nuclear missiles, forcing the Soviets to do the same. In short order, an arms race was off at full tilt. The ill-fated invasion of Cuba's Bay of Pigs April 17, 1961, by Cuban exiles trained, armed and directed by the CIA in an attempt to overthrow Castro failed and resulted in the Soviets installing nuclear missiles which led to the Cuban Missile Crisis. The U-2 affair, Berlin Crisis, atmospheric nuclear testing and Kennedy's "missile gap" charge plus the Cuban Missile Crisis all contributed to this concern about a possible nuclear war. Even in relatively quiet Lawrence, a World Crisis Day at KU in 1961 was attended by 5,000 students and faculty.

Antiwar protests and peace actions in Lawrence were much smaller and less frequent than at many other Midwestern university cities such as Madison and Ann Arbor. This difference may be due to the conservative political milieu of Kansas that enveloped the state during and after World War I. Also, it should be noted that there were branches, both nationally and locally, in the broad peace movement in the 1960s with radically divergent philosophies. These branches included: young antiwar radicals who were essentially only against the Vietnam War (KU Student Mobilization, Students for a Democratic Society), pacifists (such as KU Student Peace Union), peace advocates (Lawrence Chapter of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom), radical nonviolent resisters (i.e., War Resisters League) who were against all wars, and mainstream peace activists who generally were against only the Vietnam War (i.e. Kansas Peace Forum, Lawrence Peace Committee). Sometimes these groups with differing viewpoints were able to come together in coalitions for particular actions and other times they could not. It should be noted that many involved in protests at KU were Street People (countercultural youths) who weren't currently enrolled at the university. Further, the Vietnam Veterans Against the War, the peace coffeehouses next to military bases, and the loss of control over the troops in Vietnam were all instrumental in bringing the war to a close.

*But as an anti-war movement, the whole was a considerable if limited success. It restricted the most awesome prerogative of the chief executive: the power to deal death and destruction. It saved lives, limbs and minds. It shortened the subsequent wars that did take place.*

-Tom Wells, Ph.D. from his *The War Within* (1994)

*For all its miscalculations and deep divisions, and yet without understanding its own strength, the movement kept Nixon at crucial junctures from racheting up the war. It functioned as a veto force. Nixon feared that the opposition would prevent him from governing. To defeat the movement, he phased out the draft, "Vietnamized" the ground war, and succeeded in moving the carnage off TV.*

-Todd Gitlin, Professor of Culture and Communications, New York University

## 1960-65

- May 3, 1960      **Atomic Café and Duck 'n' Cover.** 2,000 students and adults resist participating in the legally-mandated civil defense drills in New York City. 500 gather in City Hall Park and 26 are arrested. This is the biggest civil disobedience peace action in modern American history up to that date and forces the cancellation of citywide defense drills. An overflowing rally in May at Madison Square Garden sponsored by SANE calls for a nuclear test ban treaty and 3,000 march in San Francisco for an end to the arms race.
- May 4, 1960      **Big 8 Civil Rights March.** 65 Black students march in the rain across campus to protest the Big Eight Student Body Presidents' conference resolution opposing civil rights sit-ins. One sign reads: "The right to protest nonviolently is true civil rights." 18 White students march the following day and KU housing co-ops, including Don Henry, Rochadale and Hill, obtain 1,150 signatures on a petition supporting the right to hold sit-ins.
- May 13, 1960      **HUAC San Francisco Hearing Protests.** Protesters in San Francisco disrupt the House UnAmerican Activities Committee (HUAC) hearings. HUAC was a holdover from the McCarthy Era, which conducted witch hunts against "Reds." When 200 Bay Area protesters try to gain entry to the hearing room, 400 police officers respond with clubs and firehoses. 64 are arrested and 12 are hospitalized. The next day thousands of demonstrators return to chant "Sieg Heil!" The protests were the birth-cry of the New Left.
- May 23, 1960      **Human Relations Commission.** The Lawrence Human Relations Commission is established by the City Commission to promote and enforce civil rights in the town. This is the first such local commission in the state.
- July 4, 1960      **Swimming Pool Civil Rights Picket.** 30 Blacks and Whites, mainly students and some members of the LLPD, picket the Jayhawk Plunge, a private swimming pool which excludes Blacks. The Plunge had once been

a public or quasi-public pool, but was privatized to avoid integration. The effort to integrate the pool fails and the LLPD thereafter focuses on securing fair housing and employment. An effigy, with a knife in the chest and sign reading "You shall never swim again," was placed at the doorsteps of the house of Prof. Harry Shaffer, president of LLPD. Since Mr. Shaffer was Jewish this was a hate crime of intimidation.

Aug. 7, 1960

**UN March for Disarmament.** Some 3,000 march in New York City to the United Nations headquarters to call for nuclear disarmament on the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima. In July, 3,000 participated in a Walk for Disarmament in Los Angeles.

Sept. 1960

**Atlas ICBM Missiles Deployed.** The first Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles are fully deployed. There were 129 missiles at 10 bases. An Atlas E ICBM was deployed 11 miles southwest of Lawrence. In 1962 an electric motor in the missile malfunctioned causing it to buckle (a Broken Arrow alert), though the Air Force claimed there was no danger of an accidental explosion or launch. A battery of nuclear-capable Nike Hercules missiles was stationed at Gardner. In 1960 a research nuclear reactor was built in at KU. Finally, in 1964 the City installed a decommissioned Polaris Missile (formerly nuclear-tipped) in Centennial Park.

Jan. 12, 1961

**Civil Rights Sit-in.** A group of 45 Black and White students stages a spontaneous sit-in at **Louise's Tavern** charging that Blacks had been refused service. 19 are detained by the police and taken to the police station where they are released. Earlier in the month, the Civil Rights Council, formed Nov. 2, 1960, by students, called for an all-student boycott of two downtown taverns until they extended "equal service to all." A generally apathetic and unsupportive student body fails to adopt the boycott. Thousands across the U.S. were catalyzed by the spontaneous **Greensboro, NC Lunch Counter Sit-in** held on Feb. 1, 1960, which gave rise to the 1960s **Civil Rights Direct Action** campaigns. Within a year of the Greensboro sit-in more than 50,000 people participate in over 100 direct actions, of whom 36,000 are arrested. On May 4, 1961, CORE sponsored the **Freedom Riders**, integrated groups that sought to end segregation on interstate bus routes.

Jan. 17, 1961

**Eisenhower's Military-Industrial Complex Warning.** Kansan Dwight D. Eisenhower warns of the rise of the Military-Industrial Complex in his presidential farewell address: "In the councils of government, we must guard against the acquisition of unwarranted influence, whether sought or unsought, by the military-industrial complex. The potential for the disastrous rise of misplaced power exists and will persist."

- Mar 1-April 1, 1961 **San Francisco -Moscow Peace March.** The San Francisco-Moscow Peace March calling for unilateral disarmament by all nuclear powers passes through Lawrence. The march, sponsored by the Committee for Nonviolent Action, began in San Francisco on Dec. 1, 1960, and ended with 31 marching into Moscow on Oct. 3, 1961.
- Oct. 6, 1961 **Atomic Bomb Shelters.** President Kenney urges Americans to build fallout shelters. Many are built, including in Lawrence.
- Oct. 13, 1961 **Fair Housing March.** 76 Blacks, including some Lawrence residents, march through campus protesting KU's housing policy. Protesters want KU to drop ads posted in the Housing Office by landlords who discriminate against Blacks.
- Nov. 1, 1961 **Women's Strike for Peace.** In 1961, as a radioactive cloud from a Russian nuclear test hung over the USA seemingly out of nowhere, an estimated 50,000 women in more than 60 cities walk out of their kitchens and away from their jobs in a one-day strike. The women try to appeal to other mothers. Worried about strontium-90 contaminating milk, WSP activists carry placards demanding such modest goals as "Pure Milk, Not Poison" and "Let the Children Grow" and "End the Arms Race-Not the Human Race." In May 1963 Strontium-90 levels in milk in **Kansas City** were 40 picocuries per litre though the so-called permissible limit was 33. A 34-month mutual moratorium ended Sept. 1, 1961, when the Soviet Union resumed testing. Kennedy's science advisor later credited the WSP for strongly influencing the President's decision to pursue the Limited Test Ban Treaty of 1963. This treaty banning all but underground tests was signed in 1963, partly due to Cuban Missile Crisis of October, 1962, when the world came the closest to a nuclear war and concern about Strontium 90. The final treaty signed by the US, UK and USSR was itself a compromise in place of a comprehensive test ban treaty which would have actually slowed the arms race. However, the treaty did halt nuclear fall-out and slowed nuclear proliferation by non-nuclear powers.
- Dec. 14, 1961 **World Crisis Day.** KU sponsors a World Crisis Day in response to the growing concern over nuclear war. 5,000 attend the main event in Hoch Auditorium where there is a debate between Alexandre Fomin, counselor to the Soviet Embassy, and Arthur Schlesinger. Discussion groups are well attended during the day and more than 500 students, faculty and Lawrence residents attend the closing session of WCD to hear a panel discuss the critical issues facing the world. Three days earlier President Kennedy sent 400 U.S. troops to South Vietnam.

- Feb. 16-17, 1962 **White House Picket.** 5,000 college students organized by the Student Peace Union picket the White House and lobby Congress for a nuclear test ban. This perhaps inspires a group of KU students to sponsor a talk by Peter Allen, Midwest Field Secretary of the SPU.
- Mar. 23, 1962 **KU Student Peace Union Forms.** KU Student Peace Union forms after a speech by Peter Allen, Midwest Field Secretary of the SPU speaks in the Kansas Union calling for unilateral initiatives to end the arms race. A year later on Feb. 4, 1963, KU SPU sponsors a talk by Gordon Christensen, Professor of chemistry at Connecticut College, who speaks on the dangerous spiraling nuclear arms race. A KU official reports in 1963 that the FBI had compiled a report on KU SPU and its members. KU SPU publishes *Journal* in 1965-6. The first SPU chapter was formed by pacifists and socialists in 1959 at the University of Chicago. By the end of 1960 the organization had 5,000 members nationwide. The group supported an end to the nuclear arms race and nuclear testing and U.S. military intervention in Vietnam.
- Mar. 18, 1962 **Human Rights Open Forum.** More than 350 faculty and students attend a forum in the Kansas Union concerning civil and human rights at KU and in the community. Chancellor Wescoe asserts he won't require fraternities and sororities to remove discriminatory clauses in their charters.
- April 24, 1962 **Nuclear Testing Protest March.** 19 people march from downtown to KU protesting the resumption of *atmospheric* testing by the U.S scheduled for the following day. On April 21 3,500-5,000 people organized by SANE demonstrated against the planned test in New York City. 3,000 march to the UN in New York City on April 26 in a protest organized by Women Strike for Peace. One poster reads "The only shelter is Peace."
- 1963 **Creation of River City.** Yippie George Kimball called River City a "communal state of mind" that started in 1963 when *Grist* magazine moved to town. Lawrence (Lauratown on the Kaw) was given a nickname of River City. The Mid-West Artists' Coop, established June 12, 1966, was a center for painters, poets, musicians and filmmakers, and a key component of River City. Lawrence slowly gained a reputation as an avant-garde center as countercultural visitors such as Beat poet Allen Ginsberg, Ed Sanders with the *Fugs*, and illustrator S. Clay Wilson spread the word on both coasts. Coffeehouses such as the Eighth Street Coffeehouse, and the Fiery Furnace featured poetry readings and folk music performances. The Wesley Foundation, a campus ministry center, also provided a venue. Bookstores such as the Abington and Tansy were important focal points as well. Rock music clubs included the Village Green and Red Dog Inn. River City taverns of note included the Rock Chalk, Gaslight (which was originally a Beat coffeehouse and before that a restaurant), and Green Gables. Other literary magazines included the

*Tansy and Cottonwood Review*. Various underground newspapers were published including the *Vortex*, *Screw*, *Reconstruction*, *Oread Daily*, *Harambee*, *Daily Vomit*, *Daily Planet*, *Kansas Free Press*, *River City Headhunter*, *Red Horizons*, *Freed Speak* and *Wasiki Notes*.

- May, 3, 1963 **First ROTC Review Protest.** KU SPU holds a picket of the Chancellor's annual ROTC Review held in Memorial Stadium.
- July 21, 1963 **Freedom March.** A Freedom March of 300 Blacks and Whites parades through downtown and rallies on the Courthouse steps demanding equal rights for all. The marchers, organized by the Lawrence NAACP, demand equal employment opportunities, fair housing and an integrated city swimming pool. All across the U.S. in the summer of 1963 there are hundreds of racial demonstrations in hundreds of cities and thousands of arrests. The NAACP National Convention voted July 5 to extend "the NAACP direct action program" by calling on all NAACP units to implement anti-discrimination programs through activities that "shall include picketing, sit-ins, mass action protests and selective buying campaigns." The *Great March on Washington* where Martin Luther King made his "I have a Dream" speech before 200,000 people is held August 28, 1963. Due to this pressure, President Johnson signs the famous **Civil Rights Act of 1964** the following July.
- Oct. 19, 1963 **ROTC & Militarism Protest.** About a dozen members of the Student Peace Union protest the regional meeting of an honorary society of the Air Force ROTC in the Kansas Union and voice opposition to all kinds of militarism.
- Nov. 22, 1963 **The Kennedy Assassination: The Empire Strikes Back.** According to noted theologian and peace activist Jim Douglass, President Kennedy is assassinated by the apparatus of the National Security State for his peace initiatives with the Soviet Union and Cuba and for signing a secret directive ordering the withdrawal of U.S. troops from Vietnam. See Appendix for details.
- Feb. 20, 1964 **George Lincoln Rockwell Picket.** The newly-formed KU Liberal Action Committee pickets a speech by self-styled American Nazi leader George Lincoln Rockwell at KU. 2,500 listen to Rockwell in the Kansas Union.
- April, 1964 **KU SDS Chapter Forms.** The first Students for a Democratic Society chapter on campus was the KU Liberal Action Committee. KU Students for a Democratic Society (SDS) forms in April, 1964. KU SDS publishes newsletters such as *Kandidate* and sponsors a seminar by national SDS speaker Todd Gitlin. SDS's seminal *Port Huron Statement* (1962) presents the philosophical foundation of the New Left. It provides a statement of values and a critique of American society; reviews the decline of the



democratic process in America; denigrates the Cold War and anti-communism as an ideology; and, rakes over the failure of liberalism and the labor movement. It also sets forth a program of sweeping reforms and calls for participatory democracy and finding an authentic life. Its Summer 1964 Economic Research and Action Project (ERAP) sent over 100 students to work and organize in the slums of several cities. In the fall of 1968, KU SDS established lending libraries in the residence halls. J. Edgar Hoover ordered the FBI to infiltrate SDS chapters in the Spring of 1965. A document obtained under the Freedom of Information Act revealed that the Kansas City FBI office was monitoring KU SDS in 1968.

- March 21, 1964 **Fair Housing March.** A march and protest by 100 persons against racial discrimination by the Sigma Nu fraternity is held by the Civil Rights Council and the KU Liberal Action Committee. Marchers wear suits and ties. Marchers sing the Civil Rights anthem: *We Shall Overcome*.
- Mar. 28, 1964 **Greek Housing Discrimination Protest.** About 130 protest the de facto segregated fraternity system at the annual Greek Week Chariot Race, attended by 2,000. 90 traveled to Topeka earlier in the day to protest against Attorney General William Ferguson who supports the Greek policy.
- May 15, 1964 **Second Picket of ROTC Review.** 10 members of SPU picket the ROTC Review in a "public demonstration of the military machine on campus." One sign reads: *The Only Defense is Peace*. In August, without the knowledge of Congress, U.S. Navy ships conduct provocative patrols of the North Vietnam coast. When two ships are apparently fired upon, President Johnson claims the attacks were unprovoked. Johnson falsely reports the claim to Congress which passes the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution giving the President the carte blanche authority to wage war in Southeast Asia without a formal declaration of war as required by the Constitution.
- Aug. 4, 1964 **Mississippi Civil Rights Workers.** Three Civil Rights workers are found dead in Mississippi.
- Aug. 10, 1964 **Freedom Summer Pickets.** In Lawrence 30 CORE members begin picketing the **Dunes Club Pool**, a private club with swimming facilities in protest of its ban on Blacks. On the previous day several CORE members, White and Black, attempted to swim in the pool as guests of members of the club. Black guests were forced to leave and White members had their memberships revoked. The pickets continue and on Sept. 4 a picketer's sign is broken by an anti-protester. The recently re-formed group (Aug. 1) also demands an end to discriminatory hiring practices at KU and downtown. In addition, CORE tests several taverns and barbershops, finding only one tavern in noncompliance with the new Civil Rights Act.

The famous **Freedom Summer** is held in the South where thousands of activists register Black voters and stage sit-ins to end segregation. On Aug 20 LBJ signs the anti-poverty program bill. Due to these actions, the groundbreaking **Voting Rights Act of 1965** is signed by President Johnson in July of the following year.

Oct 1, 1964

**Free Speech Movement.** Protesters surround a police car in Berkeley about to carry off a Free Speech Movement leader, Jack Weinberg, a graduate student who later says, "Don't trust anyone under 30." A mass sit-in is held in support of the Free Speech Movement at the Uni. Of California. 814 are arrested. Leader Mario Savio makes his famous speech from on top of a police car. Eventually the university rescinds its ban on political activism on campus. The movement leads to a national Free Speech Movement at universities and student rights movements around the country.

Oct. 3, 1964

**Dunes Club Picket.** Three members of CORE are pelted with eggs during a protest at the Dunes Club Pool. Eventually, the management agrees to end discrimination.

Dec. 19, 1964

**Antiwar Picket in KC.** 30 members of KU SPU and the KC Peace Council picket in front of the Armed Forces Building in KCMO against escalation of the Vietnam War.

Feb. 12, 1965

**Second KC Antiwar Protest.** About 20 KU students from KU Student Peace Union parade in front of City Hall in Kansas City, MO with signs such as "Negotiate not Escalate."

Feb. 21, 1965

**Malcolm X Assassination: The Empire Strikes Again.** An intricate plot by the FBI results in the assassination of Malcolm X due to his efforts to internationalize the race issue and his impending alliance with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. according to noted theologian and peace activist, Jim Douglass. See Appendix for details.

Feb. 24, 1965

**Civil Rights Housing Picket.** Approximately 35 members of the Civil Rights Council stage a picket just before a speech by noted civil libertarian Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas. Picketers are not against Douglas but KU's complicity in housing discrimination. Douglas speaks to 2,000 in Hoch on the role of international law in the nuclear age.

Mar. 8-9, 1965

**Fair Housing Sit-in & March.** A sit-in is held in the chancellor's office by an estimated 250 people. 110 are arrested, including football star Gayle Sayers, and officially suspended from KU. However, most didn't leave school and all are reinstated by the chancellor. A march by 400 in front of his residence and a demonstration outside of his office by 150 the following day convince him to form a University Human Relations

Committee to investigate charges of racial discrimination in housing. National CBS news covers the event. Within months all demands are met.

Mar. 14, 1965

**Selma Support March.** 200 people march in support of the Selma, Ala. Registration drive. The marchers walk in pairs from 9<sup>th</sup> and Mass. To the Courthouse. On March 21, nearly 3,200 Civil Rights marchers, led by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., began the famous **Selma to Montgomery, Ala. March.**

Mar. 17, 1965

**Blood Splashed on ROTC Posters.** KU SPU President Charles Hook slashes his wrists and splashes blood on notices on the bulletin board in the Military Science Building. He hopes his actions make ROTC students pause and think about the consequences of the training for militarism they are receiving.

Mar. 22-26, 1965

**Vietnam Vigil at KU.** The KU Student Peace Union holds a 100-hour vigil to protest the Vietnam War in front of the Military Science Building. 16 members work alternating two-hour shifts around the clock in the vigil in 0 F degree weather with snow and bitter wind. The vigilers witness cadets marching with brooms instead of rifles. Vigilers demand a negotiated settlement in Vietnam and the resignation of ROTC cadets.

Spring, 1965

**LSD Arrives in River City.** The first LSD arrives in Lawrence in the Spring of 1965 and costs \$5-15 per hit. Before then a small number of Bohemians experimented with peyote and mescaline.

April 2-11, 1965

**CORE Rebuilds Churches.** A group of 21 CORE members from KU and the community helps rebuild burned churches in Louisiana. Over 18 KU students and Lawrence residents participate in civil rights activities during the summer of 1965 in the South.

April 16-17, 1965

**First National March Against the War.** On April 17, the first National March Against the War, organized by SDS, is held in Washington with 20,000 in attendance. The previous day a small number of KU students, Lawrence residents and others demonstrated in Topeka against the war and in support of the National March Against the War. On June 7 over 17,000 turned out for a SANE-sponsored rally in Madison Square Garden.

April 28, 1965

**Park Plaza Fair Housing Picket.** Members of Lawrence chapter of CORE, the Civil Rights Council, and the local chapter of the NAACP hold a picket over several days at the office of the Park Plaza South Apts. which refuses to rent to Blacks. Up to 35 participate each day demanding the owners adopt a non-discrimination policy. By mid-July a new manager is hired and the picketing stops. Former Lawrencian and Black Poet Laureate Langston Hughes speaks and reads poetry before 300 at KU.

- May, 1965      **Second Unmilitary Ball.** The second Unmilitary Ball is held the night of the ROTC Ball.
- May 3, 1965      **Drop City Commune Founded.** The famous Drop City Commune is founded near Trinidad, Colorado by a group that includes several Lawrence residents. A send-off party for the group is held on the rooftop of the Abington Bookstore. Although many believe the name refers to "dropping acid or LSD" it actually derives from when the founders conducted performance art called Drop Art. Little rocks painted in wild colors were dropped from downtown Lawrence rooftops to observe the response of passersby. Celebrities said to have visited the commune included Tim Leary, Jim Morrison, Bob Dylan, and Henry Fonda. Living structures were geodesic domes made from car tops. There were no rules in the commune. Several other communes were founded in and around Lawrence. A benefit for Drop City was held in 1970 at Black Angus Farm northeast of Lawrence.
- May 11, 1965      **Edward Teller H-Bomb Protest.** From 10-15 KU SPU members protest outside Hoch Auditorium a speech by the Edward Teller, the "Father of the H-bomb." On May 17, 70 students picket outside of Fraser Hall. A cartoonist named Richard Geary who did a lot of illustrations for KU SPU would go to speeches of famous people and draw caricatures of them and try to get them to autograph them after the speeches.
- May 15-16, 1965      **First Teach-ins Against the War.** About 400 KU students and faculty participate in the first teach-ins against the war, held on college campuses in April-May in reaction to the bombing of North Vietnam. Teach-ins are held on 122 campuses linked up by a special radio hookup to discuss the war. The closed circuit telephone hook-up in the Kansas Union is sponsored by SDS, SPU, KU-Y, the Wesley Foundation, and 35 KU faculty members. An estimated 100,000 students participate nationwide. This puts the government on the defensive for the first time and many people change their minds about the war and begin to protest it.
- May 21, 1965      **Third ROTC Review Picket.** The SPU pickets the Chancellor's ROTC Review. On May 6, SPU joined K-State groups protesting ROTC on their campus in front of Governor Avery and the Board of Regents. On May 22 the Board of Regents decided to make ROTC at K-State elective instead of mandatory. The first mass bombing raid of the Vietnam War began in early May.
- June 7, 1965      **Right of Privacy Recognized.** The U.S. Supreme Court affirms the constitutional right to privacy in *Griswold v. Connecticut*, in which it held invalid the Conn. law banning the use of contraceptives. The decision is

- based upon the Fourth and Ninth Amendments.
- June 21, 1965 **Free Love & The Pill.** The Lawrence Health Department begins offering family planning services, including birth control pills prescribed to any women who want them. Most doctors in Lawrence (including at Watkins Hospital) refuse to prescribe birth control pills to single women because they fear it will promote promiscuity. Watkins Hospital only begins prescribing birth control pills to single students after the February Sisters occupation in Feb. 1973. The first birth control pill was approved for use on May 9, 1960.
- July 26, 1965 **KU SDS Demands Bombing Halt.** KU SDS passes a resolution demanding a halt to bombing in Vietnam. KU SDS has about 40 members.
- Sept. 22, 1965 **KU Committee to End War in Vietnam Forms.** The KU Committee to End the War in Vietnam forms to "provide a nucleus for the channelization of student and faculty opposition to U.S policies in Viet Nam." The group hopes to hold teach-ins, sponsor talks, and lobby Congress.
- Oct. 8, 1965 **Vietnam Seminar.** KU SDS presents a seminar on the Vietnam War and 150 attend a talk by Todd Gitlin, a SDS spokesperson.
- Oct. 15-16, 1965 **First International Days of Protest.** 30 members of KU SPU protest the draft and Vietnam War in front of the local Selective Service Office as part of the First International Days of Protest held Oct. 15-16 around the country. They hold signs such as "Is the Draft Fair" and "Reform the Draft." George Kimball, who is not a SPU member, shows up and is arrested for holding a "Fuck the Draft" sign. Bond is set at \$500 and he is later convicted on the obscenity charge. On Oct. 16, over 200 students participate in a teach-in on Vietnam sponsored by KU SDS, KU SPU, and the KU Committee to End the War. Over 100,000 protest in several dozen cities. On **November 27 the SANE March on Washington for Peace in Vietnam** has 35,000 participants including ten KU students.
- Nov., 1965 **Ballard Center Opens.** The Ballard Center opens in the old Lincoln School building, a traditionally Black school in North Lawrence. The Center serves low-income people and provides commodity food, school supplies, counseling, youth programs and day care.
- Dec. 6, 1965 **General Taylor/Vietnam Demonstration.** 25 KU students and faculty demonstrate against the Vietnam War while South Vietnam Ambassador General Maxwell Taylor speaks in Hoch Auditorium in support of U.S. involvement. A silent vigil is sponsored by the KU Vietnam Committee and a vocal protest is held by noted theologian John Swomley and the National Student Christian Federation. A letter is received from General Westmoreland thanking the 3,000 KU students and faculty who signed a

letter *supporting* U.S. military action in Vietnam. A total of five antiwar protests are held in the 1965-6 school year.

## 1966-67

- Feb. 9, 1966      **Nude Beat Poetry Reading.** Famous Beat poet Allen Ginsberg reads poetry in the Kansas Union. Later he and his lover, Peter Orlovsky, shed their clothes before Ginsberg reads in front of journalists. He also reads in the Fiery Furnace located in Canterbury House.
- Mar. 25-26, 1966      **Second Int'l Days of Protest.** About 150 people, including many KU students and Lawrence residents, participate in the Second Int'l Days of Protest against the war in Kansas City on March 25. An estimated 50,000 participate in a New York City march against the war. As the war escalated the Selective Service System announced in February it would begin to induct lower level students based on grades and scores on a special aptitude exam. This shocked American students across the country and activated many.
- Mar. 15, 1966      **War Tax Resistance.** On March 15, 1966 Congress passes a law raising the excise tax on telephone service from three to 10 percent. "It is clear that Viet Nam and only Viet Nam makes this bill necessary." (*Congressional Record*, Feb. 23, 1966). Hundreds of thousands refuse to pay this tax. On April 16, 1966, KU assistant professor of English Hamilton Salsich announces he is refusing to pay \$5.00 in income taxes in protest of the war. Congress passes in June, 1968, a special income tax surcharge of 10 percent levied to pay for the Vietnam War. Tens of thousands refuse to pay this tax as well and thousands also refuse to pay part or all of regular income taxes levied. By the end of the war, more than 200 local tax refusal groups are in existence. *Lawrence Peace News* reports in April 1972 that 175-200 people in the area are refusing to pay the telephone excise. The Lawrence Peace Committee supports war tax resistance. A **Fund for Life** is set up to receive refused war tax money and the revenues are re-allocated to organizations such as the Lawrence Human Relations Commission.
- Mar. 26, 1966      **Kansas City Antiwar March.** KU Vietnam Committee and KU SDS sponsor a march in Kansas City calling for an end to the war and withdrawal of U.S. troops.
- May 14, 1966      **SDS Anti-Draft Leafleting.** Members of KU SDS hand out literature to many of the more than 2,000 men who take the Selective Service College Qualification Test in Lawrence. Student protests against draft procedures break out at several universities prior to the test on May 14, including at the universities of Chicago and Wisconsin.

- May 20, 1966 **Fourth Annual ROTC Picket.** 22 members of SPU picket the Chancellor's ROTC Review which is ostensibly canceled due to a forecast of rain. However, it doesn't rain and a protest march is subsequently held.
- June 24, 1966 **Minuteman Infiltration.** According to a report by SPU member Laird Wilcox, a female member of the Minutemen, which is an extreme right guerrilla group based in Missouri, has infiltrated KU SDS and SPU.
- July 4, 1966 **Sunflower Hercules Protest.** An anti-war demonstration is held as the afternoon shift changes at the Sunflower Hercules Army Ammo Plant. The plant makes rocket propellant for air-to-ground missiles used by fighters and helicopters in Vietnam. The Lawrence chapter of CORE organizes carpools so that people can get jobs at the plant.
- Summer 1966 **Real Summer of Love.** Historians now believe the real Summer of Love in Haight-Ashbury in San Francisco occurred in 1966. By the summer of 1967 (primarily a media creation), "peace and love" were waning as considerable violence and hard drugs entered upon the scene. A major influence upon the Haight scene were **The Diggers**. The Diggers were one of the legendary groups in San Francisco's Haight-Ashbury district, one of the world-wide epicenters of the Sixties Counterculture which fundamentally changed American and world culture. Shrouded in a mystique of anonymity, the Diggers took their name from the original English Diggers (1649-50) who had promulgated a vision of society free from private property, and all forms of buying and selling. The Diggers combined street theater, anarcho-direct action, and art happenings in their social agenda of creating a Free City. Their most famous activities revolved around distributing Free Food every day in the Park, and distributing "surplus energy" at a series of Free Stores (where everything was free for the taking.) The Diggers coined various slogans that worked their way into the counterculture and even into the larger society — "Do your own thing" and "Today is the first day of the rest of your life" being the most recognizable. In Lawrence **skinny-dipping** was common at three area lakes for a number of years: Lake Henry, Lake Contrary and the Boy Scout Lake.
- Nov., 1966 **Rent-a-Hippie.** An ad appears in the *Screw*, a Lawrence underground newspaper, advertising a Rent-a-Hippie: "Now for only \$1.25 an hour you can live up your parties with a genuine hippie with sandals and beard. Call VI2-1674."
- Nov. 5-8, 1966 **Fall Mobilization.** Due to weak planning, poor weather and activist pessimism, turnout is light nationwide, though 15,000 participate in a march in New York City. A referendum on the Vietnam War is held at KU Dec. 7-8 with voting in Strong Hall and the Kansas Union.



- Dec. 10, 1966 **Kansas Peace Forum.** About 35 people from across the state form the Kansas Peace Forum, to be based in Lawrence.
- Jan. 7, 1967 **Nat'l March at Leavenworth Penitentiary.** Despite cold weather, about 100 people, including 15 KU students, participate in a national march against the imprisonment of three army privates who refused to serve in Vietnam. The war resisters received three to five years at hard labor. Counter-protesters pelt the marchers with eggs and one protester is assaulted.
- Jan. 13, 1967 **Minuteman Informant Exposed.** Former KU SPU member Laird Wilcox exposes Becky Glazer, SPU secretary, as an informant for the Minutemen, an extreme right guerrilla group based in Missouri.
- March, 1967 **Sit-in Against ROTC.** KU students and faculty stage a sit-in in the Chancellor's office demanding that university military research be banned and the ROTC program be abolished. These programs provide support to the Johnson Administration's Vietnam War effort.
- Mar. 11, 1967 **Workshops on Peace Action.** 200 attend workshops on peace action sponsored by the Kansas Peace Forum, KU Vietnam Committee and American Friends Service Committee. A speech by Sidney Lens, a labor organizer and editor of *Liberation*, a radical pacifist magazine, sponsored by the same groups is well attended.
- Mar. 15-19, 1967 **Peace Vigil & Fast.** A Fast for Rebirth of Compassion is held from March 15-18. The fasters are concerned about the war in Vietnam. A national conference by Clergy and Laity Concerned on Jan. 31 attended by 2,500 spawns Fasts for Rebirth of Compassion around the country on March 8. A Peace Vigil with over 30 participants and sponsored by the Kansas Peace Forum is held March 16. The event is photographed by KU police.
- Mar. 26, 1967 **Silent Vigils for Peace in Vietnam Begin.** Weekly vigils in witness of the tragedy in Vietnam are initiated and held every Sunday at noon in South Park throughout the war. The vigils are sponsored by the Kansas Peace Forum and attendance averages 12-20. Lawrence is the 111<sup>th</sup> known U.S. community to start silent vigils, which began the previous spring in California. A KU professor photographs a Lawrence police officer on May 9 photographing peace vigilers. The **International Days of Protest** are held March 25-27 in the U.S. and foreign cities. More than 25,000 march in New York.
- Mar. 27, 1967 **Napalm Poetry Reading.** Poet Robert Bly reads anti-war poems interspersed with slides of children napalmed by U.S. forces in Vietnam.

- April 8, 1967? **Student Rights Protest.** Over 400 students demonstrate against the KU administration for student rights.
- April 14, 1967 **Black City Commission Candidate.** Jesse Milan, A Black physical education consultant for the school district, narrowly misses being elected to the Lawrence City Commission. There is a repeat election two years later in which Milan once again just barely loses to the same candidate. Most city elections are dominated by members of the Chamber of Commerce. No Black had been elected to the Lawrence city governing body in decades.
- April 15, 1967 **Spring Mobilization & Mail-in Demonstration.** As part of the massive Spring Mobilization over 100 Lawrence residents and KU faculty and students participate in a mail-in demonstration to protest the Vietnam War. They march from South Park to the U.S. Post Office where they mail letters of protest to President Johnson. 300,000 protest the war in New York's Central Park in the largest demonstration in U.S. history to date. 60,000 protest in San Francisco. About 170 in the newly-formed **Resistance** publicly burn their draft cards in Central Park. The Resistance eventually contributed to a grassroots movement of more than one-half million young men who violated various Selective Service laws. The Resistance inspired greater dedication and resolve among antiwar activists. The **Lawrence Peace Center**, established later in the year, provided draft counseling to thousands of young men. President Jimmy Carter pardoned many draft resisters in January, 1977.
- May 12, 1967 **Peace Talk & Campus Teach-ins.** Robert Scheer, the managing editor of *Ramparts* magazine, speaks on May 12 in an event sponsored by the Kansas Peace Forum and KU Vietnam Committee. A local chapter of **Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF)** forms after the talk. WILPF sent people to the Poor People's Campaign in Washington, published a monthly newsletter, participated in the weekly vigils in South Park and held pickets of the Sunflower Hercules Plant. Teach-ins about the Vietnam War are held on 80 campuses around the country two days prior.
- May 16, 1967 **Fair Housing Demands.** Over 50 proponents of a fair housing ordinance jam the city commission chambers calling for adoption of a fair housing ordinance. An ordinance is passes two months later.
- May 19, 1967 **Pro-Peace Rally & March.** A Pro-Peace rally and march attended by more than 100 is held, followed by a picket/vigil of KU's ROTC Review. Protesters call for an immediate end to the bombing and initiation of negotiations. Sponsors include the Kansas Peace Forum, KU Vietnam Committee, KU SPU, and the Lawrence Chapter of the WILPF.

- Summer 1967 **Vietnam Summer.** While some young people are enjoying the second Summer of Love in Haight-Ashbury, over 500 paid Vietnam Summer staffers and 26,000 project volunteers organize hundreds of local antiwar projects and engage in a national canvass in an effort to reach those silent Americans who have deep concerns about the war. The goal of the project volunteers is to get these citizens to take that first step, if only signing a petition, to protest the war. As part of the **Vietnam Summer Project**, a **Vietnam Information Center** is established at 707 Mass. It contains a reading room with informational materials on the Vietnam War.
- Summer, 1967 **Summer of Unrest.** There are several nights in early August of minor incidents involving Black youths in Lawrence. Racial riots erupt in Newark, Detroit and other cities in the summer causing 100 deaths and more than 2,000 injuries. Within the first nine months of 1967 there are total of 164 riots in the U.S.
- July 18, 1967 **Fair Housing Ordinance Passes.** The Lawrence City Commission passes one of the toughest fair housing ordinances in the country. Only about 50 municipalities have such ordinances, including Wichita. The following year Congress passes the federal Fair Housing Act of 1968 which makes fair housing the law of the land.
- Aug. 8, 1967 **Human Relations Open Forum.** In response to serious flare-ups of tense relations in early August, an open forum attended by more than 100 Black youths is held by the Lawrence Human Relations Commission. Youth spokesmen call for an integrated public swimming pool, better job opportunities, more recreational facilities and better police relations.
- Sept. 28, 1967 **Torch of Peace.** 200 gather in front of Strong Hall to greet a caravan of marchers carrying the Torch of Peace which contains fragments of U.S. antipersonnel bombs used in North Vietnam. The torch was lit August 7 from incense at the memorial to atomic bomb victims in Hiroshima. About 40 march into Lawrence. The march attracts a few followers from Lawrence.
- Fall 1967 **Package in the Mail.** Three KU students send small quantities of K-pot (local wild hemp or marijuana) to eight KU officials including Chancellor Wescoe.
- Oct. 28, 1967 **Black Panther Party.** After Huey Newton engages in a struggle with police officers and shoots two, killing one, the Black Panther Party becomes the Nation's premiere symbol of Black resistance to the entire American Power structure. The Black Panther Party For Self Defense was founded in 1966 by Bobby Seale and Huey Newton, in Oakland California.

Although the original intent of the Black Panther Party, was to protect residents in Black communities against police brutality, the Panthers' vision reached far beyond municipal matters. The Panthers started food giveaway programs, opened free health clinics, developed breakfast programs, and they opened schools within their communities to educate people about Black heritage. Yet in spite of these programs, the Black Panther Party was most known for its militancy and anti-government stance.

Dressed in black berets, black leather jackets, black pants, and armed with guns, the Black Panther Party was seen as a threat by the police, local governments, and the FBI. The FBI launched a program of counter intelligence (COINTEL-PRO) against the Panthers to weaken the organization, and government measures also resulted in the arrest, and death of many Panther members. Police around the country conducted a series of military-style raids on local Panther chapters. From the fall of 1967 through 1969, nine police officers were killed and 56 wounded in confrontations with Panthers and ten Panthers were killed. In 1969 alone, 348 Panthers were arrested on various charges. A leader of the **Kansas Black Panthers Party** once spoke at KU. Despite harassment, the Panthers were able to spread their message of independence and "Black Power" nationwide, and at their zenith they had a membership of over 2,000 members.

- Oct. 16-21, 1967      **National Stop the Draft Week.** On National Draft Card Turn-in Day 1,200-1,500 youths either burn or turn in their draft cards in 18 cities on Oct. 16. On Oct. 20 **RESIST**, an influential adult draft resistance support group, turns in nearly 1,000 draft cards to the Dept. of Justice in Washington, DC. **RESIST's** *Call to Resist Illegitimate Authority*, signed by prominent Americans, has a major impact on opinion-makers. Lawrence has a group called **Draft Resisters League**. During the week 4,000 antiwar radicals surrounded the Oakland Induction Center, closing it for three hours. Governor Ronald Reagan ordered the California Highway Patrol and Oakland Police to attack the protestors with teargas and billyclubs in a melee dubbed "**Bloody Tuesday.**"
- Oct. 21, 1967      **National Mobilization Rally.** Over 100,000 protest the war at Lincoln Memorial in Washington. A civil disobedience siege by several thousand to shut down the Pentagon fails. 683 are arrested and many demonstrators are injured by police.
- Nov. 8, 1967      **CIA Protest.** Students staffing a table in Strong Hall collect signatures on petition protesting the CIA. The CIA is on campus recruiting.

Nov. 8, 1967

**Lawrence Peace Center Opens.** The Lawrence Peace Center opens in the Eldridge Hotel storefront along 7<sup>th</sup> Street. Officially, it is a project of the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC), which provided the bulk of its funding. The Kansas Peace Forum also was a co-founder. Louis B. Wolfe, a conscientious objector, directs the Center for most of its four-year existence. The Peace Center's primary focus is to provide draft counseling to young men facing decisions concerning participation in the Vietnam War. Approximately 150 young men are counseled each month with the total running into the thousands. The Center sponsors many talks and co-sponsors of many other peace activities including peace fairs, marches and rallies and it serves as an information clearinghouse. In early 1971, the U.S. Army "forces" the Peace center out of the Eldridge Hotel by offering the owners \$125 (156%) more per month in rent. Although it re-locates temporarily, the Center is de-funded by AFSC and closes December 31, 1971.

Nov. 21, 1967

**Peace Pilgrim Visits Lawrence.** A remarkable woman known as Peace Pilgrim arrives in Lawrence with a tunic that says, "25,000 miles on foot for world peace." This is the fourth time she has traveled through River City. She speaks at the Lawrence Peace Center. Peace Pilgrim criss-crossed America from 1953 to 1981 as a penniless pilgrim, walking until given shelter and fasting until given food. She spoke to thousands of individuals and groups, sharing with them her message that the way to peace is to overcome evil with good, falsehood with truth, and hatred with love. Her pilgrimage covered the entire peace picture: peace among nations, groups, individuals, and inner peace. She believed that world peace would come when enough people attain inner peace. Her life and work showed that one person with inner peace could make a significant contribution to world peace. Friends of Peace Pilgrim distributes materials that consist of collections of her words of wisdom.

Nov., 1967

**Kansas Free University.** The Free University is founded to "create a new learning environment...that focuses on more relevant, interesting, and integrated subjects" in an informational atmosphere. Initial classes include "Black Power," Existence," "The Vietnam War," Music and Truth," and "American Indians." Although it eventually disbanded, other Free Universities in the region, such as UMKC's *Communiversy* and K-State's *University for Man*, exist to this day. The idea of a free university came from anarchist Paul Goodman's *The Community of Scholars* (1962).

Nov. 28, 1967

**Integrated Public Pool Referendum.** A referendum for an integrated public swimming pool in Lawrence finally passes after three previous failed attempts beginning in November, 1956. Previous propositions failed because of opposition by white segregationists and anti-tax voters. An

integrated private pool was established in response to the Jim Crow pool situation in Lawrence. Jesse Milan, a popular physical education consultant for the school district, was instrumental in the passage of the referendum. He identified those sections of Lawrence that always voted down the propositions and then sent about 30 children to knock on doors and encourage parents to vote for the referendum. A year later white segregationist presidential candidate George Wallace receives over 2,000 votes (nearly 11%) in Douglas County. Although the pool opens in June, 1969, many white segregationists boycott the public facility and refuse to allow their children to swim with Black children in what they deride as the "Coon Lagoon."

Nov. 28, 1967

**Free Love Forum.** A Free Love Forum is held at KU. A panel of three KU professors answers questions from the audience.

Nov. 30, 1967

**McCarthy Campaign.** Minnesota Senator Eugene McCarthy announces his presidential campaign to demonstrate opposition to Johnson's Vietnam policies. His campaign strikes a chord of response, especially among young people who share his fervent distaste for the war. Many peace activists in Lawrence are energized and work on the campaign. On March 12, "Clean Gene" nearly upsets Johnson (42-49%) in the New Hampshire primary. Robert Kennedy knocks out McCarthy in the California primary on June 4, but is assassinated. Pro-war Humphrey, who didn't enter any primaries, is drafted by the party hacks.

1967

**Police-State Repression.** Military and civilian intelligence agencies step up their surveillance and disruption of anti-war and civil rights groups during 1967. By the summer the U.S. Army's Conus Intel program is in place with military intelligence agents on college campuses and elsewhere. In 1967 the CIA initiates liaisons with every metropolitan police department in the nation with their Red Squads. Red Squads were formed during and after WWI to engage in political spying and disruption of lawful dissent. With FBI encouragement they were re-constituted in the 1980s and 1990s as Counterterrorism Units. The CIA's Operation Chaos spied on about 1,000 domestic organizations and thousands of Americans including Robert Kennedy and Martin Luther King, Jr. It harassed outspoken opponents of the Vietnam War including Sen. Frank Church. The agency had thousands of informants on U.S. campuses in the 1960s and spied on student protesters thought its charter doesn't allow it to operate in the United States. The National Security Agency's Operation Minaret was a watchlist containing the names of at least 1,200 law-abiding American citizens, including Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The NSA used its "electronic vacuum cleaner" to sweep the airways for phone calls and telegrams.

The FBI launched its COINTELPRO in the spring of 1968. Its modus operandi involved infiltrating groups and creating dissension in groups. Agents and informants also set up protestors on drug charges, threatened advertisers in underground newspapers, and falsely accused leaders as informants. It also carried out illegal wiretaps, break-ins, mail-opening and dirty tricks. The FBI convinced record companies to stop advertising in underground newspapers which forced many to stop publishing. Its watchlist had over 300,000 names, the vast majority of whom were law-abiding citizens. The Kansas Bureau of Investigation had a Red Squad and created dossiers on activists. Lawrence and KU police departments photographed activists at demonstrations and most likely had established Red Squads. Reportedly, Lawrence peace/antiwar and Civil Rights/Black Power organizations were riddled with Federal and state informants who sought to destroy the organizations. Supposedly, some KU professors were selling photos of demonstrators to government agencies. Until the practice was overturned in the courts, local draft boards routinely re-classifies men 1-A (eligible for immediate induction) who publicly protest the Vietnam. Also, Congress passed a law denying federal student aid to antiwar and black power activists who committed civil disobedience. Grand juries that turn into fishing expeditions were held around the country and protesters were falsely indicted on conspiracy charges in an effort to harass protesters.

## 1968-69

- March 3, 1968 **Peace Vigil.** About 160 participate in the weekly peace vigil in South Park on its first anniversary. Normally there are only 12-20 in attendance.
- Mar. 31, 1968 **Johnson Forced to Retire.** The Vietnam quagmire forces President Johnson to announce his retirement from the Office of the Presidency. Spontaneous celebrations are held throughout the U.S., including Lawrence. The unsettling Tet Offensive, widespread opposition to the war, and a near upset by peace candidate Eugene McCarthy in the New Hampshire primary (42% to 48%), convince him not to seek reelection. The January 31<sup>st</sup> Tet Offensive, repelled at great loss of life, is portrayed by the media as a major defeat for the U.S., leading many to conclude that the North Vietnamese and Viet Cong will ultimately win the war.
- April 2, 1968 **ROTC Action.** The KU Administration is confronted by protesters who demand the abolition of ROTC, a ban on military research, denial of military recruiters on campus, and a public stand by KU against the draft. President Johnson's Operation Complete Victory offensive involving 100,000 troops begins April 8.
- April 4, 1968 **The Third Strike: The King Assassination.** According to Jim Douglass, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. is assassinated by key players consisting of organized crime figures, the Memphis police, and a U.S. army sniper team, all supervised by military and civilian intelligence agencies. In the view of the National Security State apparatus, King had become a real danger to the Republic. Not only was King supporting U.S. withdrawal from Vietnam and forming links with the antiwar movement, but he was planning to force Congress to enact a real economic justice program using massive civil disobedience through his Poor People's Campaign. Even beyond that, he was envisioning global massive civil disobedience for economic justice and world peace. See Appendix for details.
- April 5-7, 1968 **King Assassination Vigils.** After the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr. on April 4, a vigil in front of Strong Hall the following day swells to over 700. A subsequent silent march in King's memory ends at South Park. Previously a group of 36 Black students marches down Jayhawk Blvd. singing "We Shall Overcome." On April 7 a vigil by Black and Whites is attended by some 1,000 people in South Park. A brief march preceded the vigil and excerpts of King's speeches were read and freedom songs sung. Millions across the U.S. pause to honor the slain Civil Rights leader, including 10,000 at Liberty Memorial in **Kansas City**. Some of the worst racial civil unrest in U.S. history occurs when rioting erupts in over 125 U.S. cities. Baltimore, Chicago, Washington and Kansas City are the hardest hit of the cities rocked by violence. Nearly 70,000 troops are called



up to quell the violence and 47 people are killed. In **Kansas City**, Missouri five Blacks and two police officers are killed in a gun battle between Black militants and police and the National Guard. **Topeka** also has racial disturbances that are quelled by the National Guard. In response Congress quickly passes on July 26 the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968 providing for the construction of 1.7 million units of housing.

April 18, 1968

**Realist Editor Speaks.** Paul Krassner, editor of the *Realist*, speaks at the Wesley Foundation. Krassner, dubbed the father of the Underground Press, shaped the thinking of the Sixties Counterculture. At its peak the *Realist* had 100,000 avid readers.

April 23, 1968

**Columbia Uprising.** 1,000 demonstrators led by SDS and the Student Afro-American Society occupy five buildings at Columbia University in New York City. They are removed in a blistering rout by the Tactical Police Force resulting in 712 arrests, 141 injuries and 20 complaints of police brutality. The demonstrators want the university to cut ties to the Institute for Defense Analysis, a U.S. Dept. of Defense program engaged in classified research plus they want the university to jettison plans to build a new gym near Harlem.

April 27, 1968

**Be-in at Potter Lake.** A Be-in at Potter Lake with homemade vegetable soup, balloons, and kites is well attended by at least 60 people. It is the last event of the "Delight Days" celebration sponsored by the local chapter of Youth International Party (Yippies).

April 26-27, 1968

**Spring Mobilization.** The Student Mobilization Committee organizes the largest national mass student strikes in U.S. history. Hundreds of thousands of college and high school student boycott classes April 26. On the following day 150,000 protest the war in New York City and 25,000 march in San Francisco.

May 6, 1968

**Student Rights!** Up to 1,500 KU students, organized by Student Voice, demonstrate for student rights, demanding increased voting rights in the University Senate and Council and on-campus housing and academic reforms. Traditionally universities operated under a legal doctrine of *in loco parentis* or lieu of parents. Under this legal doctrine the University Administration acts as parent and enforces paternalistic rules and regulations governing personal behavior. However, as 18-year-old adults, students of the late 1960s wanted to be treated as such. The Administration eventually made many reforms, including creation of a Student Senate and representation on the University Council.

- May 21, 1968 **Black LHS Students Present Demands.** Over 50 Black students present eight demands to the LHS Administration, including the provision of Black history courses and the hiring of black teachers.
- June 19, 1968 **Poor People's Campaign.** Martin Luther King, Jr. envisioned an interracial army of poor people that would engage in wave after wave of civil disobedience until Congress passed a comprehensive anti-poverty bill. He also wanted to call in the peace movement and attempt to close down the Pentagon. The primary reason the Poor People's Campaign failed was the lack of leadership by King who was assassinated five weeks prior. In June 1968, the shantytown known as "Resurrection City," was erected near the Reflecting Pool and witnessed from the top of the Washington Monument. It housed some 3,000 members of the Poor People's Campaign who marched on Washington to demand more jobs and a better standard of living.
- Aug. 26-29, 1968 **Days of Rage: Chicago '68 Democratic Convention.** About 10,000 demonstrators converge upon Chicago during the week of the 1968 Democratic Convention to demonstrate against the war in Viet Nam and to demand that the official delegates abandon their commitments to Hubert Humphrey and politics as usual (who didn't enter any primaries) and nominate instead quixotic Minnesota senator, Eugene McCarthy, the peoples' peace candidate. There, America's political history made a hard right turn as the first Mayor Daley's cops--the Democrats in blue helmets (11,000 Chicago police officers, 6,000 national guard, and 1,000 Federal agents)--battered Eugene McCarthy's peaceful dreamers-- the Democrats in flowing robes and cut-offs-- leaving a hapless Hubert Humphrey heading a party too splintered to elect a dogcatcher. As scapegoats, the Chicago 8 were indicted for conspiracy to incite a riot.
- Sept. 7, 1968 **Radical Women!** A group of Women's Liberation Movement members called Radical Women protest the Miss America Pageant in Atlantic City, NJ which prompts a wave of protests. Their slogan is "No More Miss Americas." Local Women's Liberation groups form all over the country in 1968. Apparently, a women's liberation group forms in Lawrence mid-1968 which raised awareness and consciousness.
- Sept. 23, 1968 **ROTC Off Campus!** A group of KU faculty members calls for an end of military research and the Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC) on campus.
- Sept. 25, 1968 **Walk-out by Black Students.** From 37-50 Black Lawrence High School students walk out of school after presenting a resolution to the administration regarding the selection of cheerleaders, homecoming queens, Black teachers, and Black history classes. Parents and students

briefly set up a revolutionary Black school at a home. The school board subsequently ejects 100 white supporters of the Black students from its meeting.

Nov. 5, 1968

**Funeral for the Democratic Process.** A "Funeral for the Democratic Process" attended by over 100 is held in the rain in front of the Douglas County Courthouse. A funeral procession with a black-draped coffin precedes the rally. Protesters criticize the backroom politics used to get Hubert Humphrey the nomination (Humphrey didn't win any primaries) and denounce the lack of any Presidential candidates on the ballot that provide an alternative in the Vietnam situation. Democrat Hubert Humphrey, Republican Richard Nixon and white segregationist Independent George Wallace all have the same pro-war position. Peace candidate Eugene McCarthy failed to get the Democratic nomination and Robert Kennedy was assassinated. However, dozens of peace candidates run for Congress, including Bob Swan who wins 42% of the vote for the Kansas 2<sup>nd</sup> District which includes Lawrence.

Nov. 10, 1968

**Gen. Walt Demonstration & Peace Parade.** Lt. General Lewis Walt is forced to run the gauntlet of about 200 demonstrators that line the stairwell and hallway in the Kansas Union through which he walks. Walt speaks in support of the Vietnam War. Earlier in the day there is a Peace Parade through downtown which tags onto the tail end of a Veterans' Day Parade led by Lt. General Walt.

Jan. 7, 1969

**SDS Radical Speaks.** Former SDS radical Mark Rudd speaks in the KU Ballroom with the topic *Revolution on Campus* before an audience of 1,000. Rudd led the famous 1968 student revolt at Columbia University.

Feb. 21, 1969

**Military Science Bldg. Firebombed.** After the KU College of Liberal Arts and Sciences votes to continue allowing credit for ROTC classes, a firebomb is thrown through a window of the ROTC military science building causing minor damage. Three other unexploded firebombs are found. Snipers shoot the windows of the Kansas Union.

March, 1969

**Soul City.** The only Black-owned shop on Mass. Street opens selling records, African curios and books on the Civil Rights Movement.

Mar. 16, 1969

**Holiday Inn Civil Rights Sit-In.** Approximately 150 people sit-in and close down the Food Service at the local Holiday Inn in protest of discriminatory hiring practices and work rules.

Mar. 21, 1969

**Malcolm X Memorial March.** More than 100 Black Student Union marchers march across campus in memory of Malcolm X who was slain Feb. 21, 1965. BSUs around the country have ties to the Black Panther

Party. KU BSU, recognized by KU in September, 1968, has a breakfast program for Black children, a scholarship fund, and publishes a newsletter called *Harambee*. KU printing employees call the first edition obscene and refuse to print it. Attorney General Kent Frizzell calls the third edition of *Harambee* seditious and urges the Board of Regents to request university printing employees refuse to publish it. They go on strike and refuse to publish that issue of *Harambee*.

Mar. 22, 1969

**Santa Barbara Oil Spill Protest.** Over 50,000 turn out to protest the infamous oil spill off the coast of Santa Barbara, Cal. The national publicity galvanizes the modern environmental movement. Later in the spring the National Environmental Policy Act, one of the most important pieces of environmental legislation ever enacted, is passed by Congress. On December 2, 1969, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is created.

April 5-6, 1969

**GI-Civilian Mobilization.** On Easter Weekend over 100,000 protesters, GIs and veterans march in New York City, 40,000 in San Francisco, and 30,000 in Chicago, attended by many KU students. Nonviolent resisters hold sit-ins at draft boards and other government buildings in more than 30 cities. Major protests erupt at nearly 300 campuses in the spring, with one-fourth involving building occupations or student general strikes.

April 17, 1969

**Women's Liberation Front Forms.** The Women's Liberation Front forms at KU and calls for banning sexual discrimination at the university and ending closing hours at KU residence halls for women.

April 19, 1969

**Pleasure Fair.** "A glorified Be-in where anyone can have a beautiful time while doing their own thing" is held at Potter Lake. It is sponsored by the Independent Student Party and features art exhibitions and two theatre groups performing skits. Several hundred persons attend and enjoy listening to guitar playing, viewing the artwork and watching the skits. At one be-in Wichita City Council member Johnny Stephens gives a speech and calls for putting all hippies in concentration camps 200 miles from the nearest phone.

April 23, 1969

**Police Chiefs Convention Occupation & Guerrilla Theatre.** Guerrilla theatre depicting a battle in Vietnam is held by SDS and other groups on Jayhawk Blvd. The group of about 100 then "invades" Strong Hall where it disrupts student voting and marches to the Military Science Building. The group then conducts a sit-in and occupation of a meeting of police chiefs in the Kansas Union, who later file a Strategic Lawsuit Against Public Participation (SLAPP) against SDS and KU.

- April 29, 1969 **ROTC Protest & Rally.** Some 70 people protest a ROTC Review at which flowers are put in guns of cadets. A march down Jayhawk Blvd. is followed by a rally and demonstration for abolition of ROTC on campus is attended by 200.
- May, 1969 **First Big Eat.** Although there may have been forerunners to this large gathering of young people with rock music, the first official Big Eat is held outside of Lawrence in May, 1969. The event is held each May for a number of years. It is noted for its bathtub full of beans. One year chickens are stuck on a metal bedspring and roasted over a huge fire. It is a wild bacchanalian event with considerable nudity and free love. Bikers assume a "leadership" role over many Big Eats.
- May 1, 1969 **Presidio 27 Re-enactment & March.** Estimates ranged from a low of 300 to 1,500 who march in protest of unjust treatment of imprisoned GIs who staged a sit-in strike against the killing of a fellow prisoner at the San Francisco Presidio stockade in October. A re-enactment protest is held across from Strong Hall. Two days later 300-500 gather in front of the Federal building in KC, an event photographed by the FBI.
- May 9, 1969 **Protest Cancels ROTC Review.** The annual Chancellor's ROTC Review is canceled when 200 protesters, including KU professor John Wright, join hands on the field. The event is called **Vietnam War Memorial Service** and is sponsored by KU SDS. Protesters take over the Chancellor's stand and one reads the names of Kansas war dead. Conservative regents and alumni are upset by the protest. 33 students are suspended permanently or for a semester by KU in confidential hearings but State Senator Reynold Schultz subpoenas 21 of the names. KU also secures a permanent injunction against five protesters who were not students. Prof. Wright is tenured and KU can't do anything to him.
- May 15, 1969 **People's Park.** Police and national guard attack protesters attempting to protect a vacant lot from being turned into a parking lot by the Uni. Of California, Berkeley.
- July 27, 1969 **Stonewall Uprising.** Police raid a gay bar in Greenwich Village in New York City. 2,000 protesters battle 400 police in what is considered the birth of the Gay Liberation Movement.
- Aug. 15-17, 1969 **Woodstock Nation.** More than 500,000 attend the largest rock festival ever in Bethel, New York. Perhaps 300 KU students and Lawrence residents attend the event and return with an awareness of a collective youth consciousness. Rainbow Gatherings, descendant of Woodstock and the 1970 Vortex Festival near Portland, OR, continue each July to this day.

- Oct. 8-11, 1969 **Days of Rage.** The Weathermen, an offshoot of SDS, hold a National Action in Chicago to re-enact the Chicago National Democratic Convention street battles and to protest the opening of the Chicago 8 trial. 275 are arrested. The Weather Underground, an offshoot of the Weathermen, go underground to launch a bombing campaign that results in 26 bombings (but not a single injury or death) of power structure targets.
- Oct. 15, 1969 **National Vietnam Moratorium Day.** More than 3,500 KU students, faculty and townspeople parade on Memorial Drive and Jayhawk Blvd. About 150 gather in front of Strong Hall in a silent vigil held behind rows of white crosses. A splinter group from the parade marches downtown. 25 Central Junior High students march through downtown with a banner saying "We're for Peace in Vietnam." About 3,000 students in Hoch Auditorium listen to four KU professors make their case against the war. More than 2 million ordinary citizens, including many professionals and businesspeople, participate in rallies, leafleting, candlelight vigils, teach-ins, etc. in cities and towns all across America. Black arm bands are worn to express opposition to the war. This outpouring of public dissent is unprecedented in American history. Due to the protests, Nixon shelves his Operation Duck Hook which included using tactical nuclear weapons and announces his "Vietnamization" Program on Nov. 1.
- Sept. 13, 1969 **Racially-Motivated Vigilante Shooting.** Five Blacks on the way from school are shot at by eight Whites in North Lawrence.
- Nov. 15, 1969 **Second National Mobilization.** About 150 march in a Peace Parade in downtown Lawrence which is followed by a Speak-in at South Park sponsored by the Lawrence Committee for Peace in Vietnam. Teach-ins at KU are attended by some 350. Around 500 Lawrence residents and KU students rally at the state capitol in Topeka as part of the Second National Mobilization and listen to various speakers including KU professor Harry Shaffer present their anti-Vietnam War positions. It is sponsored by the KU Student Mobilization Committee to End the War in Vietnam. A Kansas Bureau of Investigation agent photographs the event. Over 500,000 middle-class youth march against the war in Washington in the largest march in U.S. history to date. An estimated 300 Kansans, including 100 KU students, attend the Washington march. A total of one million protest nationwide. "Give Peace a Chance" is a common chant of marchers. Two days earlier the famous **March Against Death** began with 45,000 people participating. Every hour 1,200 passed the White House, each carrying a name on a placard and lit candle at night. When each marcher passed the White House, s/he would pause and say aloud the name of a fallen soldier. The Lawrence Peace Center chartered buses to take Kansans to the **March Against Death**. A week earlier the **Boston 8**, part of The Resistance,

destroyed, defaced or stole 100,000 draft files in Boston. Nixon signed into law a bill establishing a draft lottery on Nov. 26 to defuse the antiwar movement.

Nov. 16, 1969

**Mylai Massacre.** The Mylai Massacre is finally reported in the American media. On March 16, 1968, Lt. William Calley, Jr. and his soldiers killed hundreds of Vietnamese civilians. He is convicted of premeditated murder on March 29, 1971.

Dec. 16, 1969

**Headquarters.** Headquarters, a 24-hour crisis center, primarily for those with drug problems (i.e. "bad trips") in River City, is established. It is an outgrowth of the counterculture and is primarily staffed by KU students and Street People (Counterculture youths). It serves as a "crash pad" and soon sets up a drug analysis service to test the quality of drugs in Lawrence (to make the public aware of dangerous or poor quality drugs). Headquarters continues to operate, though it has changed its focus.

Dec. 1969

**Outreach and Education.**

*Urban Plunge.* The Wesley Foundation sponsors the Urban Plunge (at least five per year) which politicizes some participants.

*Speakers Bureau.* A Speakers Bureau is instrumental in spreading the word about the Vietnam War. It sends speakers to various living groups, including fraternities and sororities.

*Film Series.* A national film series provides educational service to KU and the community.

## 1970: The Year That Rocked River City

- Feb. 17, 1970      **The Day After: Chicago 8 Protests.** About 200 protest the Chicago 8 trial in front of the Douglas County Courthouse. Fists are pained on the Courthouse and a second floor window is broken. Three are later identified and arrested. KU law professor Lawrence Velvel speaks against the verdict. On Jan. 19 the U.S. Supreme Court refused to hear his case against Nixon declaring the war to be unconstitutional. The Chicago 8 trial is widely perceived to be a judicial farce and illustrates the police-state tactics used against citizens and groups exercising their First Amendment rights. Following their convictions, protests are held in many towns and cities. Several thousand demonstrate in New York, Berkeley, Madison, Boston, Seattle and Chicago. The following month there are many bombings of ROTC buildings, draft boards and police stations. Their convictions for crossing state lines to incite riots (at the Chicago Convention) are overturned on appeal in 1972.
- Feb. 26, 1970      **Black Student Protest.** The KU Black Student Union (BSU) presents a list of demands calling for more Black faculty members, more Black students, and creation of a Black studies program. The tight timetable is deemed unrealistic by the chancellor, though an African Studies Program is created later in the year. At one point BSU proposes Malcolm X Hall which would house the Afro-American Institute of Technology, lecture hall, classrooms, an Afro-American library and BSU offices.
- Mar. 9, 1970        **Black United Council Forms.** About 50 people attend the founding meeting of the Black United Council which includes representatives of all Lawrence Black organizations.
- Mar. 12-22, 1970   **Nat'l Anti-Draft Week.** New Mobe sponsors a National Anti-Draft Week in several U.S. cities. Several draft offices are closed down by sit-ins. KU students are urged to boycott classes March 12-18 in protest against the draft. A picket of the Lawrence Selective Service office is held March 19 by about 50 people. The Lawrence Chapter of WILPF leads pickets of the **Hercules Sunflower Plant** 13 miles east of Lawrence on March 15 and 22. One sign reads "Hercules and Murder, Inc." The plant makes rocket propellant for air-to-ground missiles used by fighters and helicopters in Vietnam War.
- Mar. 16, 1970      **Raining Marshmallows.** Jack Mohr, retired army colonel and John Birch Society member, is pelted by marshmallows during his speech.
- April 8, 1970       **Strike Day!** Many students boycott classes and 4,000 stage a "seige" of Strong Hall to protest the denial of promotion to a faculty member



Lawrence Velvel who spoke out against the Chicago 8 trial in February and Fred Litto who produced an "obscene" play overseas. The promotions are held up but are eventually granted. After the rally the crowd goes to Potter Lake for a rock festival. Yippie Abbie Hoffman speaks before 8,000 that night at KU, wipes his nose with an American flag and says Lawrence is a drag. There are three firebombings April 7-8 in Lawrence. On April 15 strikes are held on U.S. campuses but few are shut down.

April 15, 1970

**National Anti-War Week.** KU's Student Mobilization Committee helps organize a march in Kansas City attended by 350 and a rally with 500. Many KU students and even South Junior High students attend. The cost of the war is emphasized.

Feb., 1970?

**Lawrence Liberation Front Forms.** The Lawrence Liberation Front forms and calls itself a "Revolutionary Community Action group consisting of a number of collectives and committees whose function is to serve the People of the Revolutionary Community, through sustained programs as well as through the sponsorship of cultural activities on a continuing basis." It publishes the *Oread Daily*, has a legal defense fund called Legal Self Defense (LSD) Fund, and a G.I. Counseling Service.

April 1970

**Police Brutality.** According to reports by former police officers, Lawrence police officers would routinely follow cars with out-of-county license plates driven by young Black males and pull them over when they eventually made a traffic infraction. They would then take the youths to an old shed East of town where they would stick a broomstick up their rectums and threaten them with worse harm if they returned to Lawrence.

April 13-22, 1970

**Revolt in River City.** Black liberation militants and young White radicals (dubbed "Street People") create a pre-revolutionary situation in Lawrence with a virtual guerrilla war. Arson, firebombings, sniping, and bombings are widespread in predominantly Black sections of East and North Lawrence and what the media dub "Hippy Haven" near KU. Three nights of emergency curfew are imposed and the Kansas National Guard patrols the streets (with the police) and arrests 75. A savings and loan is bombed twice as well as a judge's house. Two schools are firebombed. An arson fire destroys part of the Kansas Union causing \$1 million in damage. According to journalist Bill Moyers after the Union fire there were more fires, "one started by a building and grounds employee who was later declared mentally incompetent to stand trial, creating speculation that he and not a student might have burned the Union building." As a show of solidarity, Street People and the Lawrence Liberation Front use diversionary tactics and purposely try to draw the police and National Guard away from the Black community facing considerable repression. The KU Information Center is established by the Administration to control rumors.

Fifty Black students occupy the principal's office at Lawrence High School and present a list of demands including more Black teachers and staff, inclusion of Black history/studies classes, and election of Black cheerleaders and a Homecoming Queen. Confrontations ensue between Black and White students with 28 claiming to be assaulted or injured. Police use tear gas on a group of 150 Black students. School building windows are broken and the adjacent Administration Building is firebombed and snipers shoot at firefighters.

April 22, 1970

**Earth Day Activities.** An Environmental Teach-in is held the week of April 22-28. The main event, sponsored by Ecology Action, is held in Hoch Auditorium on April 23. On April 25 Ecology Action sponsors a canoe trip down the Kansas River to observe the water pollution. There is also a fair with live music and picnic in South Park. Paul Ehrlich speaks on April 28. An Earth Day Open Forum entitled *Politics of Ecology* is held in the University Theatre with a panel of six KU professors. Douglas County Environmental Improvement Council plans to co-sponsor a talk by William Lamont, coordinator of community development in Boulder, Col., but it is canceled due to the emergency curfew. More than 20 million Americans take to the streets to celebrate Earth Day—the largest demonstration in the nation's history. 200,000 rally on the Capitol Mall in Washington and 100,000 march in New York City. This is the first National Environmental Teach-in which involved more than 2,000 communities. Earth Day is the start of the modern environmental movement in the U.S. Although important legislation pre-dated Earth Day (such as the 1964 Wilderness Act and Wild and Scenic Rivers Act), much critical environmental legislation passes Congress within three years such as the Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, and Endangered Species Act plus DDT is banned and the STT is stopped. Air pollution in the Lawrence area becomes an issue 1970-72 with the Farmland Industries, FMC, and KP&L plants. As early as 1966 there were complaints about the pollution spewing out of the Farmland Industries plant. Some pollution control devices are installed on the plants in the next few years.

April 24, 1970

**FIST Forms.** Fucking Insane Sisters of Terror (FIST) forms. Their first act is to dump copies of the *Oread Daily* and its editor into Potter Lake because of that issue's anti-feminist rhetoric. Another radical feminist organization was **Women's International Terrorist Conspiracy from Hell (WITCH)**. *Lavender Luminary*, a lesbian alternative paper is published in 1970.

Ap. 30-May 9, 1970

**Cambodia Invasion/Kent State Protests.** Hundreds of protests are held across the country on April 30 to protest the invasion of Cambodia. Within three days strikes are in progress at more than 100 colleges and universities. After the Kent State killing of four students, student strikes

spread to hundreds of campuses, with at least 536 shut down, 51 for the remainder of the academic year. Protests are held at nearly 1,350 campuses in May with perhaps one-half of all students participating, many for the first time. At KU a coffin-bearing crowd of 500 marches against the U.S. invasion of Cambodia and the Kent State massacre on May 5. The following day the KU Administration cancels the ROTC Review for the second year. On May 6 a crowd of 800-1,000 rallies against ROTC on campus. About 200 re-group and damage the military science building and five are later arrested. About 30 ROTC buildings across the country are burned or bombed during the first week of May. On May 7 there is a general strike by KU students who plant trees and attend workshops. Chancellor Chalmers holds an Alternative Convocation attended by 12,000 and allows students to choose between finishing the semester in classes or complete the semester early and take part in some political activity of their choice. Antiwar activists are upset the University didn't take an official stand against the war and close down. Conservative politicians, regents and alumni think the chancellor caved in to student radicals.

The month of May witnessed the greatest display of campus dissent and disorder in American history. On May 9, more than 100,000 protest in Washington. A planned civil disobedience sit-in front of the White House by several thousand never materializes due to disorganization and government chicanery. Nixon announces withdrawal of U.S. troops from Cambodia in 30 days. The invasion de-stabilizes the country and allows Pol Pot and the Khmer Rouge to take control in 1975, resulting in the deaths of over one million people in the ensuing genocidal campaigns. By fall of 1970, scheduled U.S. troop withdrawals from Vietnam are accelerated.

May 12, 1970

**Black Student Union Rally.** Over 500 Black and White students rally. BSU President John Spearman addresses the crowd and calls for a more equal distribution of power at KU.

May 13, 1970

**Peace in Indochina Rally.** More than 2,000 college students from all across Kansas attend a peace rally at the Capitol in Topeka. They present a petition to Governor Docking on "Pleading Kansas Day" calling for the governor to convene a special session of the Legislature to pass a bill making it unlawful for Kansas men to fight outside the U.S. without a declaration of war as required by the Constitution. A silent vigil is held and songs of peace sung.

Summer, 1970

**River Water Presented to Candidates.** Candidates for public office are presented with glasses of highly-polluted Kansas River water at a candidate's forum. Although no one accepts the murky drinks, all agree they are against pollution.

- June, 1970      **Lawrence Gay Liberation Front Forms.** Although efforts to form a gay liberation organization began as early Spring 1969, a lasting organization doesn't form until June, 1970 (by seven individuals). By September two homosexual couples had filed for marriage licenses and had cases in courts. It is one of the first campus gay organizations in the country. The name of the group changed over the years but it continued to provide counseling, legal and medical advice, social activities and public education programs.
- June 22, 1970      **Annual Harvest Carnival.** A Pot Burn-in is held by some 20 people in a parking lot next to the Coach House. This is a protest against marijuana laws in which individuals openly smoke marijuana or pot. The event is sponsored by the Kaw Valley Hemp Pickers.
- June 24, 1970      **Food Conspiracy.** A food conspiracy, providing bulk food to "The People" by eliminating the middle man, forms. For many months it is located in the basement of the Campus Improvement Association (CIA) house at 1406 Tenn. It is a forerunner of the Community Mercantile, a health food co-operative formed in 1974.
- June 26, 1970      **Afro House Opens.** A Black cultural center partially funded by the KU Student Senate opens at 10<sup>th</sup> & Rhode Island. Its purpose is to unify the KU and Lawrence Black communities and to "educate the Black people of the Black experience. Unity must become the goal of all Black people, for only by unifying can Black people hope to achieve total liberation in this white society." It offers a breakfast program for children, Big Brother-Sister Program, and a Liberation School.
- June-July, 1970      **Guerrilla War Preparation Classes.** The Defense Committee of the Lawrence Liberation Front holds a series of three classes: "Guerilla Warfare Tactics," "Marksmanship and Arms Maintenance" and "Karate and Hand to Hand Combat."
- July, 1970      **Women's Coalition Forms.** The Women's Coalition, a Women's Liberation Movement group forms during KU's summer school when women activists realize that the KU Student Senate is not allocating any funds for women. The group is overtly political and provides self-defense training against rape, abortion counseling and operates a Women's Center in the Wesley Foundation building. Kansas became one of the first states to legalize abortion when the legislature passed a law in 1969 legalizing abortions when three doctors certified that a birth would harm a woman's mental or physical well-being (also in the case of rape, incest or defective fetus). Some Women's Coalition activists later help found the **February Sisters** which occupy the East Asia building on Feb. 4, 1973.

July 16-23, 1970

**Second Revolt in River City.** Once again there is virtual guerrilla warfare in the streets of Lawrence with firebombings, sniping, bombings and arson fires by Black liberation radicals and young White militants. A state of emergency is declared and the governor orders the Kansas Highway Patrol to patrol the streets. On July 17 a group of 40 armed Black men exchanges gunfire with police and an officer is injured. A group of local city officials and journalists, including Dolph Simons, Jr. of the *Journal-World*, gathered outside the Courthouse, comes under sniper fire. Donald Rick "Tiger" Dowdell, a BSU member, is shot in the back and killed by police on July 16 after leaving Afro House, a Black cultural center. Melvin Reynolds is shot by vigilantes while at the Afro House. The following night there were at least 12 fire-bombings. Harry "Nick" Rice, a KU student, is shot in the back of the neck and killed by police and a Mert Olds, a Black graduate student, is shot in the leg during a civil disturbance at 13<sup>th</sup> & Oread on July 20. Chancellor Chalmers orders KU closed on July 23 in respect for the memories of the two slain youths. On July 23 a funeral procession led by a horse-drawn cart carrying Dowdell's coffin travels through downtown. A separate procession of 300 White supporters occurred an hour earlier. A Rick Dowdell Liberation School forms which promotes Black cultural identity. As a result of the 1970 racial disturbances, local government and businesses make some changes in hiring practices, housing, etc. Racial rioting occurred in several Northern U.S. cities July 7-31.

Aug. 24, 1970

**Tenants Union Forms.** A tenants union forms to protect renters from slumlords. The group prepares and distributes a map of Oread neighborhood listing owners and rents charged. A "rent strike" is the ultimate goal of the union in an attempt to have rental houses cleaned up, problems fixed and rents lowered. The union conducts a survey of tenants in Oread and prepares a booklet on the legal aspects of tenant rights.

Aug. 26, 1970

**Women's Strike for Equality.** A Mass Lay-off is held by Lawrence women from 12 p.m. to 12 p.m. in conjunction with the Women's Strike for Equality. This was a general strike by women. On Aug. 26, the 50th anniversary of American women's gaining the right to vote, thousands of women around the country march, picket, rally and hold teach-ins in support of 24-hour childcare, abortion on demand, and equal employment and educational opportunities. The National Organization of Women (NOW), a reformist group founded in 1966, coordinates this "Women's Strike for Equality." Approximately 50,000 women marched in New York and another 100,000 women participated in demonstrations and rallies in 90 cities, 42 states.

Sept. 7, 1970

**Operation Rapid American Withdrawal.** The Vietnam Veterans Against the War holds its first national demonstration. Approximately 120 vets retrace the old roads used by the American Revolutionary Army from

Morristown, NJ to Valley Forge where they are met by 1,500 supporters for a Labor Day Rally. Along the way they stage guerrilla mock theatre of American atrocities committed in Vietnam.

- Sept. 18, 1970 **Free Speech Repression.** Ed Acker leaves jail after spending five days for saying the word "fuck" in front of the Rock Chalk Café.
- Sept. 25, 1970 **Middle East Intervention Protest.** A rally is held in front of Strong Hall protesting any U.S. military intervention in the Middle East. The U.S. is poised to intervene in a civil war in Jordan.
- Sept. 25, 1970? **American Indian Day Protest.** A large protest is held in front of the Museum of Natural History and Strong Hall. Protesters are opposed to the displaying of Custer's horse, Comanche, labeling him the "only survival of the Battle of the Little Big Horn River." Slogans include "Comanche is a Myth." "Sitting Bull Lives!" and "Return Comanche to his stall at Ft. Riley."
- Fall 1970 **Zero Population Growth.** One of the Nation's first chapters of the organization Zero Population Growth forms. It is centered around the Biology Dept. at KU and sponsors speakers, engages in political lobbying and runs a birth control information line. The author of *The Population Bomb*, Paul Ehrlich, received his Ph.D. from KU.
- Fall 1970 **First Gay Liberation Dance.** The first Gay Liberation Dance is held in the Kansas Ballroom. The annual events are nationally known and consistently draw crowds of 500-800. The festive affairs are enjoyed by gays and straights alike.
- Oct. 5, 1970 **Police Attack Black & White Students.** A confrontation between 200 Black and White students at Lawrence High School results in police using billy clubs and tear gas on the students. There were a series of racial disturbances at the high school in September and early October.
- Oct. 31, 1970 **Halloween Peace Walk.** A Peace Walk with 200 participants proceeds through downtown Lawrence to South Park where a rally is held. A Revolutionary Contingent in solidarity with the Vietnamese National Liberation Army accompanies the marchers. A 24-hour vigil follows. The event is sponsored by the Lawrence Peace Action Coalition and the Student Mobilization Committee.
- Nov. 1, 1970 **Kaw Valley Hemp Pickers.** CBS *60 Minutes* televises a piece on the Kaw Valley Hemp Pickers, a dues-paying union of individuals who regularly pick wild Kansas hemp (K-pot) or cultivated marijuana. For a nominal fee new pickers receive a map of safe fields plus tips on picking. A *New York Times* article in the summer 1969 called Lawrence the marijuana capital of

America. That year there were at least 300 hemp pickers in the Lawrence area. The crowds were even bigger in the summer of 1970. Up through 1967 Lawrence police didn't bust casual marijuana smokers who strolled around in public smoking marijuana cigarettes or "joints." Reportedly one urban commune always has a "joint" lit for several consecutive years. Several "headshops" with drug and countercultural paraphernalia sprouted in Lawrence, including Strawberry Fields (now Fields), Magic Circus, Sandlewood, and Bokonon. The latter had an outdoor vending machine (converted condom machine) that sold packages of cigarette rolling papers.

Nov. 3, 1970

**Yippie Wins Local Office.** In the November election, local Yippie and Lawrence Liberation Front (LLF) member Phil Hill, wins the obscure office of Justice of the Peace. Hill, a self-proclaimed "Weirdo" runs unopposed as a stealth candidate and receives 6,500 votes. National media cover the surprise win. The Kansas Attorney-General later rules the office was abolished by the Legislature in 1968 despite a prior (post 1968) ruling that it would take a constitutional amendment. LLFers wonder why the office was on the ballot to begin with. Hill, an admitted drug dealer, said he would perform group marriages and marry homosexual couples. He also planned to hold court on a street corner on Oread Avenue in the "Liberated Zone." In the August Republican primary Cynthia Turner, a Black woman, is badly beaten by incumbent John Vogel for the 39<sup>th</sup> District in the Legislature (86%-14%). One-eyed Yippie George Kimball, Defense Chairman of the White Panthers Party, receives 13 percent of the vote in November for Douglas County Sheriff in a colorful campaign. Kimball calls for an end to the war, freedom for everyone everywhere, abolition of the drug laws and setting up a People's Patrol or Copwatch consisting of women and minority deputies to follow Lawrence police officers and intervene when the rights of citizens are being violated. 18-year-olds gained the right to vote June 18, 1971.

Nov. 11, 1970

**River City Citizens' Town Meeting.** The newly-elected justice of the peace, Phil Hill, calls a meeting of River City denizens or Street People. Over 250 attend in the Kansas Union, but dissension prevails.

Dec. 7-12, 1970

**Black Power General Strike.** The university computer center in Summerfield Hall is bombed, injuring three students, during a week of racial disturbances. The Black Student Union demands the reinstatement of Gary Dean Jackson, a GTA and Dean of Men's office employee who was ordered fired by the Kansas Board of Regents for purchasing ammunition during the July disturbances. The Kansas Attorney General ruled that his purchase was legal and Jackson had been denied due process. Seven are arrested for protesting in the Chancellor's office and are charged with riotous conduct. The BSU president addresses a crowd of up to 2,000 students and says Black students are prepared to go on strike until

June. On December 7, Black students and White supporters go on a general strike lasting three days. Black professors hold teach-ins instead of regular classes. On December 9, a group of 300-500 marches after holding a rally. During the five days of unrest there is a shooting and two arson fires plus two dynamite bombs are found. The Board of Regents refuses to reverse its decision and Jackson doesn't prevail in his lawsuit for reinstatement.



## 1971-73

Jan. 18, 1971

**The Whomper.** As an outgrowth of Earth Day, a Reclamation Center is set up to provide recycling facilities for KU students and the community. A huge machine, dubbed the Whomper, crushes cans, bottles, etc. at the Center. Just weeks after the Reclamation Center's debut, the Kansas Legislature kills a "bottle bill" requiring deposits on beverage containers to encourage re-use. Some states plus Columbia, Missouri pass "bottle bills." The Center closes in December 1976 due to a lack of markets for recycleables, lack of public support and mismanagement.

Feb. 19, 1971

**Stop ROTC Rally.** A SDS-sponsored rally of 200 calling for the abolition of ROTC on campus is held in front of Strong Hall. Protesters march to the Military Science Building. In February the national Vietnam Veterans Against the War's **Winter Soldier Investigation** is held. The event is a three-day war crimes trial or testimony.

Feb. 26, 1971

**Vern Miller Lands with Two Feet.** Elected to Kansas attorney general in 1970 on a campaign slogan: "I'll leap into the drug-ridden hippie communes of Lawrence with both feet," Vern Miller raids Lawrence with 150-200 officers and arrests 33 in the state's most massive drug raid. A *Life Magazine* reporter accompanies Miller and one home is mistakenly invaded by law enforcement officers. His drug raids in the early 1970s nab several activists who are set up by undercover agents. Flamboyant Miller pops out of a car trunk as a publicity stunt in his early morning raids and uses Gestapo-type tactics including smashing down doors. Democrat Miller runs for governor in 1974 and on election night, the race see-saws back and forth until the wee hours of the morning when he finally loses as the returns come in from Douglas County giving his moderate Republican opponent, Robert Bennett, the edge.

Mar. 1, 1971

**"Burn Vern" Rally.** Up to 1,000 protest Vern Miller's raid on Lawrence in front of Strong Hall. Speakers denounce the raid as an attempt to further his personal political ambitions. "Burn Vern" ("burn" is street slang for ripping off someone in a drug deal) bumperstickers sprout on cars in River City. One speaker, who gives a talk asking why the AG doesn't go after the Mafia in Kansas, gets caught up in an official inquisition held by district attorney Mike Elwell. Michael Glover campaigns door-to-door in "Hippie Haven" and wins a seat in the Kansas House Nov. 7, 1972. "Mr. Marijuana" wages a protracted, but fruitless, campaign in the Legislature to get marijuana decriminalized and later becomes City Prosecutor.

Mar. 2, 1971

**International Women's Day.** 40 women and men parade on campus in support of International Women's Day, a celebration to unite women and

discuss common problems. 11 workshops are held in the Kansas Union as well as a celebration in the Women's Center. The U.S. Capitol building is bombed by the Weather Underground, a SDS offshoot, the same day.

Spring 1971

**Mud Creek Destruction Opposed.** A proposal by the Corps of Engineers to channelize Mud Creek Northeast of Lawrence is vigorously opposed by environmental groups. Even a rock band called Mud Creek forms and is very popular the next few years. After considerable lobbying and organizing by environmental groups such as Jayhawk Audubon Society, Lawrence Sierra Club and Douglas County Environmental Improvement Council, the Corps agrees to a citizens' plan that would mitigate the deleterious effects of the flood control project. However, the City of Lawrence denounces the plan and secures special authority from Congress to proceed with the original channelization. The creek is subsequently completely ruined by the Corps.

April 10, 1971

**Oread Street Disturbance.** A large crowd of Street People gathers on Oread Street and an arson fire is set.

April 14, 1971

**Vietnam Canvass.** The Lawrence Vietnam Coalition begins a canvass of Lawrence households on the Indochina War. It is kicked off by a rally at Woodruff Auditorium. Residents are polled by canvassers on a date for the final withdrawal from Southeast Asia and are asked to sign a "Joint Treaty of Peace" drafted by North and South Vietnamese students and the National Student Association (which received funds from the CIA in the 1960s).

April 23-24, 1971

**March on the Capitol.** One-half million people march to the Capitol in Washington, led by hundreds of GIs and Vietnam veterans on April 24. 200,000 march in San Francisco in the largest antiwar protest ever on the West Coast. The previous day nearly 1,000 veterans organized by the Vietnam Veterans Against the War return their Vietnam combat medals at the Capitol in moving ceremony dubbed **Dewey Canyon III** in which several Lawrence veterans participate.

May 3-5, 1971

**May Days.** Tens of thousands of militants attempt to shut down government operations in Washington. Police illegally arrest 7,000, the most arrests in any single event or for any single day in U.S. history. A total of 12,000 are arrested in the mobile civil disobedience which fails once again. The ACLU later wins a \$12 million in damages for wrongfully arrested persons. Other actions are held nationwide to commemorate the Kent State and Jackson State killings one year earlier. **Operation POW** is held May 31 by Vietnam Veterans Against the War in which 500 vets retrace Paul Revere's ride but are banned from camping on Lexington Green. A support rally is held and 458 people are arrested, the largest mass

arrest in Massachusetts's history.

June 9, 1971

**Lyons Radwaste Dump.** The Atomic Energy Commission announces it will begin burial of radioactive waste at Lyons, Kansas in 1975. Protests mount across the state and after Kansas Geological Survey finds the salt mines riddled with old oil wells holes, the project is canceled.

June 13, 1971

**Pentagon Papers Published.** The classified Pentagon Papers which revealed U.S. duplicity in Vietnam are published by the *New York Times*. Daniel Ellsberg was the high-level researcher who leaked the papers, the top-secret history of the U.S. involvement in Viet Nam. The act, which shortened U.S. military involvement in Viet Nam and contributed to Nixon's resignation, also slapped Ellsberg with a twelve-count indictment for espionage, theft and conspiracy. The charges were eventually dropped and Ellsberg went on to become a leading figure in the U.S. peace movement. John Ehrlichman and three White House "Plumbers" were found guilty of conspiracy to violate the Civil Rights of Ellsberg's psychiatrist by breaking into his office.

June 28, 1971

**Vietnam Vet Rap Session.** Lawrence Vietnam Veterans Against the War hold a Vietnam Vet Rap Session in South Park where people can ask questions of vets about what it's really like in Vietnam.

June 30, 1971

**Rainbow Underground Strikes.** Seven Lawrence institutions, primarily city banks, are the target of the Rainbow Underground which breaks building windows causing thousands of dollars in damages. The group targets "capitalist companies that steal from clients."

July 3-5, 1971

**Operation Heart of America.** The national Vietnam Veterans Against the War holds a rally at Liberty Memorial and a candlelight march from the memorial to the Country Club Plaza in **Kansas City**. Many of the 500 marchers are Lawrence VVAW members. The marchers want to counteract the "rockets' red glare of traditional Independence Day fireworks." The national organization announces June 6 the events as "a limited incursion of Vietnam veterans into Middle America."

July 22, 1971

**Gay Liberation Front Files Lawsuit.** The Gay Liberation Front files a lawsuit in Federal court seeking to force KU to recognize the group. It hires William Kuntzler, of Chicago 8 fame, but the judge refuses to allow him to represent the defendants. On Feb. 10, 1972, the Federal judge denies the request and it is appealed. In 1973 the U.S. Court of Appeals rules against LGLF. Not until 1980 is the group allowed to register as a student organization when a policy change allows all groups to register.

- Sept., 1971      **Save the Tallgrass Prairie.** A petition drive is launched to attempt for the third time a Tallgrass Prairie National Park in the Flint Hills of Kansas. An advertisement in the *Vortex* advertises that petitions are available at Gran Sport, a recreational equipment supply store. More than 20 years later a tallgrass prairie national preserve is established in Kansas but it amounts to less than four percent of the land area once proposed and is of insufficient size for a true tallgrass prairie ecosystem.
- Oct. 9, 1971      **Bob Hope Antiwar Protest.** 30 protesters stage guerrilla theatre in the form of a mock Vietnam War battle outside of Allen Fieldhouse in protest of pro-Vietnam War entertainer Bob Hope.
- Oct. 12, 1971      **Mexican American Student Assn. Forms.** After a speech by noted Chicano activist, Manuel Fierro, an independent candidate for governor, to Chicano KU students on September 28, they form an advocacy group.
- Nov. 1971      **United Farm Workers Safeway Picket.** A picket is held by Lawrence Friends of the United Farm Workers at the local Safeway store to protest the sellout contracts by growers to the Teamsters. The national picket and boycott hopes to get Safeway to stop selling lettuce, Sunmaid raisins, and table grapes and get consumers to boycott the same. The local picket lasts 38 weeks.
- Nov.6, 1971      **Wichita 9 Convictions Upheld.** The Kansas Supreme Court upholds the convictions of the Wichita 9, who are War on Poverty officials convicted on 1968 first-degree robbery charges of a Kansas City, Kansas anti-poverty official. Leonard Harrison, a Black Power leader and admirer of Malcolm X, goes into exile in Tanzania. Harrison was an outspoken Black Power advocate who ran Lawrence's Ballard Center from mid-1968 until April, 1971. He is pardoned by Governor Joan Finney in 1993.
- Dec. 1971      **Frontier Justice.** Armed vigilantes, racist police, and the powers-that-be force many Civil Rights/Black Power activists out of town by the end of 1971. There were three vigilante groups in Lawrence. One vigilante claimed he had 300 armed members in his group and in December 1970 he asserted that the elimination of 14 people would do much to quiet the city. He also claimed he had 15 men on duty at all times patrolling city streets. Another vigilante claimed in the spring of 1970 that his Responsible Citizens of Lawrence had 250-300 armed men patrolling the city. One group, the **Support Your Local Police Committee**, openly collaborated with the John Birch Society. The John Birch Society is an Ultra-conservative organization founded in 1958 by Robert Welch. It believes in a bizarre conspiracy that communist organizations, international bankers, the United Nations and the U.S. State Department are part of a grand conspiracy to take over the U.S. and impose communism. It even called

conservative Republican President Eisenhower a communist. Groups of armed white men did in fact patrolled "trouble spots" such as East Lawrence and "Hippie Haven" during the disturbances in 1970. Vigilantes shot at the Campus Improvement Association (CIA) House (now Sunflower House) and the Afro House. Gunfire was returned from both houses.

Dec. 26-28, 1971

**Operation Peace on Earth.** 15 members of the national VVAM occupy the Statue of Liberty in support of peace in Vietnam. On December 27 twenty-five occupy the Betsy Ross House and 87 are arrested for blocking the entrance to the Lincoln Memorial the following day.

Jan. 1972

**Lawrence Peace Committee Forms.** The Lawrence Peace Committee (LPC), an outcome of a Peace Encounter held at Camp Chippewa, forms to "provide education and information on peace-related issues, to sponsor political and legislative action, and to encourage individual acts of war resistance." The Committee publishes a monthly *Lawrence Peace News* and encourages war tax resistance. Weekly local actions such as leafleting, canvassing and letter-writing tables are sponsored by the Committee. It also places ads in the *Journal-World* calling for peace in Indochina.

Jan. 18, 1972

**McGovern Campaign.** South Dakota Senator George McGovern opens his campaign for the 1972 Democratic presidential nomination. In a televised speech he pledges to withdraw every U.S. soldier from Vietnam and shift resources from the war to rebuild America. His slogan is "Come Home America." Many young people and peace activists, including those in Lawrence, are galvanized. Although he suffers one of the worst presidential defeats in history, the Nixon White House's Watergate burglary of the Democratic Party Headquarters, eventually forces Nixon out of office.

Feb. 4, 1972

**February Sisters Occupation.** After being inspired by a speech by Robin Morgan, a radical feminist, 20 feminist activists and four children occupy KU's vacant East Asia building for 26 hours. The following day they present a list of non-negotiable demands: (1) An Affirmative Action Office; (2) free day care; (3) Women's Health Program; (4) Women's Studies Department; (5) Fair employment practices; and (6) more women in key staff positions at KU. Many of the demands are eventually met (or partially met). There were about 130 February Sisters supporters. The University initiated disciplinary action against five students. Kansas ratified the Equal Rights Amendment to the U.S. Constitution just six days (on March 28) after Congress submitted the amendment to the states.

- March 31, 1972      **Vigil for Peace.** A vigil for peace is held in front of Danforth Chapel at KU. This ends the Peace Education and Action Week which had a film series and peace workshops.
- March 31, 1972      **Trial of Catonsville Nine Play.** A play written by peace activist Daniel Berrigan is performed in the Ecumenical Christian Ministries building. Berrigan's most celebrated and publicized action was probably the Catonsville raid, which Dan immortalized in his play, *The Trial of the Catonsville Nine* (1970). On May 17, 1968, nine activists invaded a Maryland Selective Service Board, snatched up 600 draft records, carried them outside in wire mesh baskets, and set them ablaze with homemade napalm. During the trial, Berrigan's lawyer Harrop Freeman, a Quaker professor of law at Cornell University, asked if what Berrigan had done was carrying out the "philosophy of the Jesuit order." He replied, "[I]f that is not accepted as a substantial part of my action, then the action is eviscerated of all meaning; and I should be committed for insanity." The play was made into a film in 1972.
- April 2, 1972      **Anti-war Teach-in.** Workshops are held in the Kansas Union for anti-war activists.
- April 19, 1972      **Chicano Awareness Day.** Chicano activist Manuel Fierro, independent candidate for governor, speaks before 50 people in the Union Ballroom for Chicano Awareness Day. Several skits are performed reflecting the injustices against Chicano people. Fierro is a consultant for the School of Social Welfare.
- Ap. 21-22, 1972      **Final Spring Mobilization.** After Nixon bombs Hanoi and Haiphong killing thousands of civilians on April 15, spontaneous protests erupt nationwide. On April 21, students at over 150 campuses participate in a nationwide strike, shutting down many schools. At KU 500 hold a rally in front of Strong Hall. On April 22 over 100,000 protest in demonstrations in various cities. At the KU Relays over 300 protesters parade around the stadium protesting the bombing.
- April 27, 1972      **Bob Dole Speech Protest.** Republican Party National Chairman Bob Dole is protested by several hundred students for his support of the Administration's policies in Vietnam at a speech held in the Ballroom of the Kansas Union. As the Kansas senator began his talk, a large portion of the 1,600 in attendance stood and turned away from him, showing the names of Kansas soldiers who had died in the war on placards on their backs. Protesters also heckle him and drown him out at times. Dole is considered to be Richard Nixon's hatchet man. He runs for President in 1996 and a Dole Institute is established at KU.

U.S. Constitution is the downfall of President Richard Nixon who is forced to resign on August 9, 1974.

- Aug. 23, 1972      **Republican National Convention Protests.** Over 1,100 antiwar protesters including many Vietnam Veterans Against the War are arrested at the Republican National Convention in Miami.
- Sept. 26, 1972      **Affirmative Action Plan.** The City Commission finally passes an Affirmative Action Plan which covers city contractors.
- Oct. 1972      **Consumer Affairs Assn.** The Consumer Protection Assn. (later re-named Consumer Affairs Assn.) forms with funding by the KU Student Senate. A year later it began serving the entire community and provided counseling in consumer matters and served as an advocate for consumers having disputes with businesses and landlords. It served to educate consumers to avoid consumer problems, acted as a mediator in consumer disputes, and provided referral and information resource services. Due to funding cuts, it dissolved in August, 1991.
- Oct. 10, 1973      **Vice President Agnew Resigns.** Vice President Spiro Agnew, who repeatedly castigated anti-war protesters, is forced to resign from office and accept a criminal sentence for federal tax evasion. In return for the plea and his resignation, the government agreed not to prosecute Agnew for alleged acts of extortion and bribery stretching over a 10-year period and involving at least \$87,500. Spiro Agnew became the first Vice President of the United States to be driven from office by a cloud of personal scandal. Agnew, who claimed there was a Silent Majority that supported the war and opposed antiwar protesters, was picketed in Kansas City on October 23, 1972.
- Oct. 17, 1972      **Kansas Indian Forum.** The leaders of the Prairie Band Pottowatomie of Kansas speak at a forum in the Kansas Union on Indian rights the same day a massive Indian March on Washington is underway.
- Nov. 4, 1972      **Operation Freedom of Speech II.** The Lawrence Vietnam Veterans Against the War conducts a 20-mile march for peace and justice. It begins at the Sunflower Army Ammunition Plant and ends in Veterans Park. The object of the march is to raise legal defense funds for the Gainesville 8 who were eight VVAW members indicted by a Federal grand jury on conspiracy to violently disrupt the Republican National Convention in Miami.
- Nov. 18, 1972      **First Cairo Convoy.** The Lawrence VVAW, along with the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, sponsors a caravan with supplies to the

Black community in Cairo, Illinois which witnessed violent racial disturbances since 1969. A second caravan sets out on April 7, 1973.

Jan. 20, 1973

**Counter-Inaugural & Christmas Bombing Protests.** More than 200 protesters march from Strong Hall to South Park in response to Nixon's "Christmas Bombing" with U.S. warplanes unleashing the heaviest attacks of the entire war in which several thousand civilian are killed or injured and in protest of his inaugural Jan. 20. The event is sponsored by the VVAW and Nat'l Peace Action Coalition. The Lawrence Peace Committee co-sponsors a rally against the war held in Topeka on Jan. 20. More than 80,000 protest in Washington, DC and 100,000 protest in various other cities. The Paris Peace Accords are signed Jan. 27, an end to the draft is announced the same day and U.S. ground troops leave March 29. Congress overrides Nixon's veto of the War Powers Act on Nov. 7 which curbs the President's power to commit armed forces to hostilities abroad without Congressional approval. The Vietnam War continues until April 30, 1975.

Jan. 22, 1973

**Abortion Legalized.** The U.S. Supreme Court affirms the right of women to control their own bodies in *Roe v. Wade*. In 1969 Kansas became one of first states to legalize abortion.

Feb. 20, 1973

**No Nukes!** Kansas Gas & Electric (KG&E) announces that the Wolf Creek Nuclear Plant would be built near Burlington, Kansas for \$1 billion. Many protest groups were based in Lawrence including People's Energy Project, Radioactive Free Kansas, Kansas Natural Guard and the Nuclear Awareness Network during the late 1970s and early 80s. Unlike the successful anti-nuclear movement against the Black Fox Nuclear Plant in Oklahoma, most Kansas activists entered the fray too late to stop construction of Wolf Creek. The plant opened in 1985 at cost of \$3 billion. A NRC-commissioned study released in 1982 concluded a worst-case accident at the plant could produce an estimated 1,000 deaths and 3,000 injuries within one year of the accident, 3,000 latent cancer deaths and unknown levels of genetic damage, plus \$105 billion in property damage. Further, the study estimated that there was a one in 50 chance that a worst-case accident would occur in the U.S. by the year 2000.

Mar. 16, 1973

**Wounded Knee Support Rally.** The Lawrence Vietnam Veterans Against the War (VVAW) rally in front of Strong Hall in support of American Indian Movement (AIM) at Wounded Knee. A caravan loaded with supplies leaves for Wounded Knee. On February 28, 1973, just three months after AIM made national press in their takeover of the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) headquarters in Washington they made the headlines once again when they seized the encampment for a 71-day takeover of Wounded Knee on the Pine Ridge Reservation of South Dakota. VVAW as a national organization is involved in the Wounded Knee uprising and



provides medical supplies to the occupiers.

Mar. 30, 1973

**Wounded Knee & Indian Rights March.** Over 125 American Indian Movement (AIM) members and supporters march from a rally in Veteran's Park to downtown Lawrence in solidarity with the AIM activists at Wounded Knee.

Sept. 1973

**Civil Rights for Haskell Indian Students.** Haskell students finally achieve a measure of Civil Rights. The Haskell Administration had a severe case of *loco in parentis* controlling nearly every aspect of the lives of students. Haskell students could not own cars, or visit members of the opposite sex in college dorms. Also, they were required to walk on certain streets in Lawrence and some bars refused to serve them.

## APPENDIX

**U-2 Affair and Berlin Crisis.** In 1960 when President Eisenhower launched his *Crusade for Peace* to bring about a lasting detente with the Soviet Union, one U-2 spyairplane, one pilot, and a Secret Team within the Pentagon and CIA shattered his dream. President Eisenhower looked forward to visiting the Soviet Union during May of 1960, along with increasing the level of dialogue with Premier Krushchev regarding implementation of a genuine halt to the arms race. His *Crusade for Peace* was intended to reach a new level of understanding ushered in with the planned meeting in Paris on May 16, followed by a tour of Russia, many expected to be a resounding success for both sides. That U-2, flown into the USSR against Eisenhower's express orders on the Soviet Union's major national holiday, May Day, 1960, by Francis Gary Powers was not on a spy mission as had been alleged. Rogue elements in the Military-Industrial Complex sent Powers on mission for the sole purpose of destroying whatever chance there was for peace. Then on May 16, 1960, the Paris Summit meeting collapsed when Khrushchev demanded an apology from President Eisenhower for the U-2 flights. Eisenhower's credibility was gone after the capture of Powers by the Soviets because he publicly denied U-2 flights were being undertaken.

The Berlin crisis, 1958-1962, involved a controversy so bitter and so sustained that at its height world leaders feared that a misstep could trigger a nuclear war. The crisis unfolded through a war of words, diplomatic negotiations, superpower summits, and military posturing and preparations as East and West argued over the status of Berlin. For Presidents Eisenhower and Kennedy, U.S. "credibility" was at stake: a failure in Berlin could disrupt NATO and weaken American influence in West Germany, the key to the balance of power in Europe. In a secret telegram, a copy of which was obtained by the National Security Archive in August of 1991, U.S. Ambassador Llewellyn Thompson analyzed the Berlin situation and warned the Secretary of State of the "chances of war or ignominious Western Threat."

**Kennedy Assassination.** Jim Douglass, noted theologian, provides the following analysis of the Kennedy assassination: "As a result of the Cuban Missile Crisis, Kennedy was exploring a policy of peace with the USSR and Cuba. He and Nikita Krushchev had signed the Limited Test Ban Treaty. Quiet contacts were being made through the United Nations for Kennedy to negotiate with Castro on a new US-Cuban relations. Kennedy's best statement on his turn toward Peace was his June 10, 1963, American University address...In the beginning was the word of Peace in the American University address and to the Pentagon that word meant surrender to the communists. For the Pentagon and the CIA, Kennedy's American University address, which was inspired by Pope John XXIII's Encyclical *Pacem in Terris*, was an act of treason. For those who stood behind the Military-Industrial Complex, it was an act of loyalty to the nation to kill Kennedy and save the world from communism. A copy of what may have been the orders to kill John Kennedy is revealed in a Naval Intelligence cable to marine sniper Roscoe White while he was undercover with Dallas police in the fall of 1963. The decoded cable states that Roscoe White's next assignment is to eliminate a national security threat to worldwide peace. That is what Roscoe White believed he was doing with his rifle from behind the fence at the top of the grassy knoll—eliminating a national security threat to world peace. By the fall of 1963 John Kennedy had also decided to withdraw from Vietnam. On October 11, 1963, Kennedy issued national Security Act memorandum 263 which secretly authorized the withdrawal of 1,000 American troops from Vietnam by the end of 1963. However, two days after the assassination the new president, Lyndon Johnson, approved NSA Memorandum 273 which kept Kennedy's withdrawal plans from being implemented. Dallas marks the difference between Kennedy's beginning withdrawal from the war and Johnson's support of the Pentagon's push to widen it. In light of the future consequences of that day, it was not only John Kennedy who was crucified on November 22, 1963, but tens of thousands of U.S. soldiers and millions of Vietnamese, Laotians and Cambodians." It should be noted that there is still no general agreement on the explanation of Kennedy's assassination.

**Malcolm X Assassination.** Jim Douglass gives the following analysis of the assassination of Malcolm X. "The plot to kill Malcolm X was from the beginning an integral part of the FBI's COINTELPRO to destroy the Black leadership of the United States. The CIA joined the FBI in stalking Malcolm X during the final year of his life. When Malcolm X made his pilgrimage to Mecca in April, 1964, he was overwhelmed by an experience of the unity of humans of all races. He then set out on a radical political journey to a series of African countries. His purpose was to persuade their UN delegations to bring the United States up on charges of violating the UN Human Rights Charter by its treatment of African-Americans. Malcolm was suddenly using his enormous prestige to internationalize the race issue...The FBI had blundered in assuming that by engineering Malcolm X's ouster from the Nation of Islam, that they would destroy him. Instead a Mecca-transformed Malcolm was becoming a threat to U.S. foreign policy. Continuous FBI and CIA surveillance also discovered that Malcolm was moving into an even more startling alliance, one with Dr. Martin Luther King. William Kuntzler spoke of a telephone conversation between Malcolm X and Dr. King on February 14, 1965, one week before his death. He said that there was sort of an agreement that they would meet in the future and they would work out a common strategy, not merge their two organizations, but they would work out a method to work together in some way. That quite possibly led to the bombing of Malcolm's house that evening in East Elmhurst and his assassination one week later." It should be noted that there is still no general agreement on the explanation of Malcolm's assassination.

**King Assassination.** Jim Douglass provides his analysis of the assassination of the famous Civil Rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King: "William F. Pepper is the author of *Orders to Kill: The Truth Behind the Murder of Martin Luther King* (1995). His 500-page book is the most complete picture we have of any of the 1960s assassinations, claiming the involvement in King's murder of Memphis police, organized crime, a U.S. army sniper team and-supervising these players-military and civilian intelligence agencies...As King tied together Civil Rights, peace, and economic justice from early 1967 on, government intelligence officials became convinced that he was a dangerous revolutionary controlled by communists. They felt their worst suspicions were confirmed by the riots in the U.S. cities during the summer of 1967 which they attributed to King and foreign communities. On October 21, 1967, a huge antiwar demonstration at the Pentagon appalled the senior government and military officials who observed it. They saw it as a revolutionary force in the country represented by the urban uprisings which they might not be able to contain given the depletion of available trained forces by the Vietnam War. The decision was made then in October of 1967 at a senior level to form a covert Army sniper team from the 20<sup>th</sup> Special Forces Group based in Birmingham, AL to join a multi-layered effort to assassinate King...As 1968 began, CIA and FBI agents offered \$1 million to mob leader Carlo Gambino in Apalachin, NY for the killing of Martin Luther King. When Gambino refused the offer, the agents indicated it would be placed elsewhere. On the weekend of March 15, a Memphis produce man and gangster, Frank Liberto, hired local grill owner, Loyd Jowers, to assist in King's assassination...King may have sealed his assassination exactly one year earlier when he delivered his famous speech against the Vietnam War at New York's Riverside Church. In the speech he identified "the greatest purveyor of violence in the world today" as "my own government." J. Edgar Hoover then wrote to President Lyndon Johnson that it was clear King was "an instrument in the hands of subversive forces seeking to undermine our nation."

The perception by government leaders that Martin Luther King was their worst domestic enemy deepened from mid-1967 on, as King announced plans for a Poor People's Campaign in Washington. An interracial army of poor people would have come together in the nation's capital in late April 1968. They would engage in wave after wave of mass civil disobedience until Congress passed comprehensive anti-poverty bill. The intelligence community also knew from listening electronically to King's every word, that he had an even broader vision of the Poor People's Campaign. With the Vietnam War at its peak in the spring of 1968, King told his staff, "After we get [to Washington] and stay a few days, [we'll] call the peace movement in and let them go on the other side of the Potomac and try to close down the Pentagon." In his Canadian Broadcasting Corporation lectures at the end of 1967, Martin Luther King had expressed a vision that went beyond even the Poor People's Campaign and the Vietnam War. He saw the next step as a global nonviolent movement using escalating acts of massive civil disobedience to disrupt the entire international order and block economic and political exploitation across borders. The Poor People's Campaign was to be only the beginning." It should be noted that there is still no general agreement on the explanation of King's assassination.

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**Point of View.** All histories have a point of view and this one is no exception. I'm up front about my bias toward Progressive politics as I believe deeply in peace, justice, freedom and a clean environment. Although I aimed for accuracy, without complete information some of the events may have been misinterpreted. Also, a few dates of events may be off slightly.

*I didn't pretend to an objectivity that was neither possible nor desirable. You can't be neutral on a moving train...[E]vents are already moving in a certain deadly directions, and to be neutral means to accept that."*

-Historian Howard Zinn

**Bionote:** Clark H. Coan is a free-lance researcher and environmental and peace activist living in Lawrence, Kansas. He co-founded several organizations including Save the Baker Wetlands, the Wakarusa River Greens, Hermes Peace & Justice Library, and the Rails-to-Trails Coalition of Kansas. He received a Master of Urban Planning degree from the University of Kansas in 1979.

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