Bulldog and Panther: The 1970 May Day Rally and Yale

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Most students are smart enough to know that there are no easy answers. But they would like their elders to admit that the questions are real. ... The stakes are terribly high, for those who will, by the simple passage of time, inherit the earth are now at the crossroads. The problems raised by the young, the questions they ask, are not going to be solved speedily, or even in the time of your generation and mine. But the chance of our children to solve them, to answer them, will depend greatly on two things. First, whether or not the younger generations feel that the critic, the skeptic, the heretic are still welcome, even honored and respected, in the United States. Second, whether or not they feel that the channels of communication, persuasion, and change are truly open, as the Bill of Rights intended they should be.

Excerpted from Kingman Brewster, Jr. ‘s speech at the American Newspaper Publishers’ Association meeting in New York on 21 April 1970

1969 and 1970 were politically tumultuous years in the United States and indeed around the world. Unrest in U.S. urban areas and on college and university campuses focused on racial and gender inequalities, the ongoing U.S. war in Vietnam, and demands by students for more responsive and inclusive campus decision making.

On 19 May 1969 Black Panther Party (BPP) member Alex Rackley was kidnapped and killed in New Haven by other BPP members who believed he was an FBI informant. In a time of intense FBI counter-intelligence focus on neutralizing the BPP’s influence in U.S. cities, the broad swath of indictments for the murder seemed an overreach to many. The defendants were referred to as the New Haven Nine, an allusion to the famous Chicago Seven, and included Bobby Seale, national BPP Chairman, who had spoken at Yale the day of the murder. Seale was extradited to Connecticut on the approval of California Governor Ronald Reagan, and the trial was set to begin in May 1970. A large protest rally was organized for the New Haven Green, scheduled for 1-3 May 1970. This exhibit explores the events leading up to the New Haven May Day rally, and its impact on Yale, the New Haven community, and beyond.

All materials used in this exhibit are from Manuscripts and Archives in Sterling Memorial Library unless otherwise noted.

1b.1
Context: Campus and Urban Unrest

Bob Dylan’s ballad, “The Times They Are a-Changin’,” released in 1964 on an album bearing the same title, captured the dissatisfaction felt by many with the post-war racial, economic, and social status quo in the 1950s United States and much of the world. The assassinations of Martin Luther King, Jr. and Robert F. Kennedy during a three-month period in 1968 touched off a conflagration in America’s inner cities, abandoned economically in an explosion of post-war suburbanization.

In national elections in November of that year, Richard M. Nixon was elected President of the United States. He promised to restore order and extract the country from the unacceptably high toll, especially loss of young soldiers’ lives, of the increasingly unpopular war against Communism in Vietnam.

2a.1
Advertising brochure for Frontlash 70, "a student/youth project for grassroots political participation," 1970.
Dwight Macdonald Papers (MS 730), Box 137, Folder 769.

2a.2&3 (single label)
National Guard jeep in front of a burned and looted Detroit storefront (left), photograph, circa 1967, and first page of the "Preface" typescript, both from a draft of the report of the National Advisory Commission on Civil Disorders, also known as the Kerner Commission, charged by President Lyndon B. Johnson to investigate the outbreak of urban rioting and destruction during the summer of 1967, 1968 January 1.
John Vliet Lindsay Papers (MS 592), Box 201, Folders 1-2.

2a.4
Cover of Vietnam: Bulletin of the Vietnam Solidarity Committee (United Kingdom), Volume 1, Number 5, 1970 February.
Movement (Protest) Collection (MS 617), Box 9.

2a.5
Cover stories on an upcoming fund-raising concert at Wolsey Hall and a national anti-Vietnam War protest rally, and reproduction of an insert advertising bus mobilization from New Haven to New York City for the 15 April rally (on wall), AIM: The Bulletin of the American Independent Movement, Volume 1, Number 18, 1967 March 16.
William Sloane Coffin, Jr. Papers (MS 1665), Box 14, Folder 185.
2b.6&7 (single label)
Images of speakers and attendees at the Vietnam Moratorium rally held on the New Haven Green (left), photographic contact sheet, and first page of a typescript of the remarks made at the rally by Yale President Kingman Brewster, Jr., 1969 October 15.
Yale Events and Activities Photographs (RU 690), Box 66, Folder 1033.

2b.8&9 (single label)
Student opinion on the Yale campus was by no means unanimous regarding the escalation of the war in Vietnam and other issues that were the focus of student activism and protest. "Marines are here," anti-ROTC flier distributed by the Yale Students for a Democratic Society (SDS) group (left), and "The SUDS cop-out," an anti-SDS flier distributed by an anonymous group, circa 1969 Fall term.
May Day Rally and Yale Collection (RU 86), Accession 1971-A-004, Box 5, Folders 7-8.

2b.10&11 (single label)
Articles and illustrations dealing with activism around long-standing labor issues relating to women on the Yale campus, Yale Break: A Newspaper For and By Women, Volume 1, Number 3 (left), 1970 April 6, and Number 2 (right), 1970 February 10.
Employee Unions and Strikes, Yale University, Records (RU 105), Accession 1987-A-028, Box 4, Folder 1.

2b.11
Female striker with picket sign, photograph by John Friedman, 1968 July.
Yale Alumni Magazine Photographs (RU 694), Box 3, Folder 62.

**Preamble: 1969 and Early 1970**

Broader discontent with the status quo was expressed in increasingly visible ways at Yale throughout 1968 and 1969. The incorporation of women and racial minorities into the overwhelmingly white and male student body, faculty, and administration increased dramatically during this period, under the proactive guidance of Kingman Brewster, Jr., Yale’s president. At the same time labor dissatisfaction over the university’s treatment of women and minority employees festered.

Under its director, J. Edgar Hoover, the FBI had for nearly two decades conducted covert, sometimes illegal surveillance, infiltration, harassment, and disruption of domestic organizations and individuals considered subversive. By early 1970 suspicion and distrust were rampant. The beginning of the New Haven trials of nine Black Panther Party members arrested for the 1969 Rackley murder appeared to many an extension of the FBI’s dirty tactics.

3a.1
Yh10 +A2 (local call number).
3a.2
"Black and Blue: 'Yale Is the Wrong Place For A Black Radical'," Yale Banner 1969, pages 54-55, 1969.
Yg11 +B3 (local call number).

3a.3
Office of the President, Yale University, Records Concerning the May Day Rally (RU 16), Box 8, Folder 71.

3a.4
First page of a letter to Dean Louis Pollak from Operation Breakthrough, Inc. regarding issues raised at a Yale Law School community panel discussion on the urban crisis, especially "the absurdity of an all-white panel discussing a black-white problem," 1968 April 29.
Kingman Brewster, Jr., President of Yale University, Records (RU 11), Box 45, Folder 5.

3a.5
First page of a letter to President Kingman Brewster, Jr. and Acting Provost Alvin Kernan from Roy S. Bryce-Laporte, Assistant Professor of Sociology and Director of Yale's nascent Afro-American Studies Program, regarding inadequacies in administrative support for the program, 1970 February 23.
Kingman Brewster, Jr., President of Yale University, Records (RU 11), Box 45, Folder 5.

3a.6&7 (single label)
William Kunstler (B.A. '41), chief attorney for the Chicago Seven defendants, speaking at a Woolsey Hall rally protesting the New Haven Black Panther trials (left), and a New Haven Black Panther Party member in front of the crowd of approximately 1,500 attendees at the same rally, two photographs by John T. Hill, 1970 April 13.
Yale Alumni Magazine Photographs (RU 694), Box 5, Folder 123 (left) and Box 6, Folder 124.

3b.8&9 (single label)
"Yale To Be Tried By The People" article from page 6 (above right), reproduction of original, and front cover of State of Connecticut vs. New Haven 9 newspaper, circa 1970 April.
Office of the President, Yale University, Records Concerning the May Day Rally (RU 16), Box 7, Folder 66.

3b.10
John R. Williams Papers (MS 1398), Box 5, Folder 32.
3b.11
Call for a moratorium on classes at Yale, among the demands issued by approximately 400 students attending a 15 April meeting in William L. Harkness Hall, 1970 April 16.
Office of the President, Yale University, Records Concerning the May Day Rally (RU 16), Box 8, Folder 71.

3b.12
YYg15 N47 (local call number).

3b.13
Memorandum to Henry (Sam) Chauncey, Jr., Special Assistant to President Brewster, from Emile Estoclet, Jr. regarding threats, made by Youth International Party (Yippie) leader Jerry Rubin the previous day at a rally in Boston, to "burn part of Yale" during the upcoming New Haven May Day rally, 1970 April 16.
Office of the President, Yale University, Records Concerning the May Day Rally (RU 16), Box 8, Folder 71.

3b.14
FOIA-requested photocopy of an FBI memorandum and accompanying flier, collected on the Yale campus by an FBI agent, containing detailed instructions for making Molotov cocktails, 1970 April 21.
John R. Williams Papers (MS 1398), Box 5, Folder 34.

Planning and Worrying: Early April 1970

As the month of April progressed, it became increasingly clear that a protest action, national in scope, would take place in New Haven on May Day. The focus of this action would be on the Black Panther trials then underway, especially the perception that Bobby Seale was the target of unjust FBI attention and that the outcome of his trial was somehow preordained.

A call for a strike at Yale, in the form of a moratorium on classes, met with mixed reactions on the campus and among members of its alumni community. Escalating threats of violence against the city and university from radical groups across the nation gained the attention of both the Yale administration and the Nixon White House.

4a.1
Black Students at Yale (BSAY) leaders Ralph Dawson (B.A. '71) and Kurt Schmoke (B.A. '71), protesting the New Haven Black Panther trials, disrupt Senator Edward M. Kennedy’s speech on Earth Day and environmental issues at a Yale Political Union meeting in Commons, photograph by Stephen West, 1970 April 22.
Yale Alumni Magazine Photographs (RU 694), Box 5, Folder 123.
4a.2

4a.3
Yale Chaplain William Sloane Coffin, Jr. speaking at the first Ingalls Rink rally, photograph by Stephen West, 1970 April 21. Student Life at Yale Photographs (RU 736), Box 11, Folder 417.

4a.4
"Don't Strike!!" flier, distributed by the Student Fair Trial Committee, opposing the moratorium on classes at Yale, circa 1970 April 13. Office of the President, Yale University, Records Concerning the May Day Rally (RU 16), Box 7, Folder 62.

4a.5
Letter to Kingman Brewster, Jr. from Grover J. (Rocky) Rees III (B.A. '72), a "conservative' Yale student" and organizer of the Student Fair Trial Committee, announcing the disbanding of that organization and urging evacuation of the campus, 1970 April 22. Office of the President, Yale University, Records Concerning the May Day Rally (RU 16), Box 7, Folder 62.

4a.6&7 (single label)
The crowd of approximately 5,000 Yale students and other attendees (left), and New Haven Black Panther Party members standing in the aisles at the first Ingalls Rink meeting on the upcoming May Day rally, two photographs by Stephen West, 1970 April 21. Yale Alumni Magazine Photographs (RU 694), Box 5, Folder 123 (left) and Box 6, Folder 126.

4b.8

4b.9
FOIA-requested photocopy of a New Haven FBI office Airtel transmission to FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover providing details of a wiretapped telephone call made from the Black Panther Party's New Haven headquarters, 1970 April 23. John R. Williams Papers (MS 1398), Box 5, Folder 32.

4b.10
FOIA-requested photocopy of a memorandum, sent via enciphered teletype, from FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover to top-level Nixon Administration officials providing an analysis of the threat of racial violence in New Haven, 1970 April 24. John R. Williams Papers (MS 1398), Box 5, Folder 32.
4b.11
Crowd of students in front of Sprague Hall, where a faculty meeting discussing the Black Panther trials and May Day rally was going on, photograph by Stephen West, 1970 April 23.
Student Life at Yale Photographs (RU 736), Box 11, Folder 417.

4b.12
"Faculty Votes To Allow Class Suspension," Yale Daily News, front page, reproduction of original, 1970 April 24.
YYg15 N47 (local call number).

**Teach-Ins and Teach-Outs: 24-27 April 1970**

Many on the Yale campus conceived of the moratorium, approved by the faculty on 23 April, as an opportunity for direct-action conversation and learning about issues of economic, social, and political inequality in New Haven and the United States. The Black Panther Party’s social services and education programs in blighted urban neighborhoods, like some in New Haven, served as a counterpoint to the rhetorical fireworks of Panther leaders in response to the ongoing trial.

Teams of students and some faculty members canvassed New Haven’s households in a concerted interaction and mutual education effort dubbed “teach outs.” Forums and other engagements on campus sought to foster dialog around the many issues raised by the trial and upcoming rally.

5a.1
May Day Rally and Yale Collection (RU 86), Accession 1971-A-004, Box 2, Folder 9.

5a.2&3 (single label)
Strike Newspaper, pages 2-3, intended as a communication tool and not a political vehicle according to its editorial statement (left), and first page of a Strike News press release on student canvassing and teach-ins relating to the Black Panther trial, 1970 April 25 (left) and 27.
May Day Rally and Yale Collection (RU 86), Accession 1971-A-004, Box 2, Folders 7-8 (left).

5a.4&6 (single label)
Books burned in the Law Library fire, assumed but never proven to be arson, spread out on the sidewalk at the corner of High and Grove Streets, two photographs by Alan Waggoner, 1970 April 27.
Yale Alumni Magazine Photographs (RU 694), Box 6, Folder 126.

5a.5
Articles about the Law School fire and May Day rally, Strike Newspaper, front page, 1970 April 27.
May Day Rally and Yale Collection (RU 86), Accession 1971-A-004, Box 2, Folder 7.
5b.7&8 (single label)
"Seven Panels for the Week of April 27, 1970," annotated typescript (left) and poster detailing community forums relating to May Day rally issues sponsored by the Faculty Resource Group, 1970 April 27.
May Day Rally and Yale Collection (RU 86), Accession 1971-A-004, Box 2, Folders 4 (left) and 6.

5b.9, 10&11 (single label)
Planning documents relating to the May Day rally, detailing results of the Teach-Out community outreach effort by Yale students, housing coordination for out-of-town protesters, and updates for the Strike Newspaper, circa 1970 April 24-26.
May Day Rally and Yale Collection (RU 86), Accession 1971-A-004, Box 2, Folder 4.

5b.12
Parody broadside Street Wall Journal captures Kingman Brewster, Jr.'s controversial statement at April 23 faculty meeting, reproduction of original, undated but after 1970 April 23.
Office of the President, Yale University, Records Concerning the May Day Rally (RU 16), Box 12, Folder 1.

5b.13
Front page of a press release from the Senate campaign headquarters of Connecticut Senate Majority Leader Edward Marcus questioning Kingman Brewster, Jr.'s ability to serve as Yale President based on his statement made at the 23 April faculty meeting, 1970 April 27.
May Day Rally and Yale Collection (RU 86), Accession 1971-A-004, Box 2, Folder 3.

**Brewster Brouhaha: 29-30 April 1970**

At a 23 April faculty meeting held in Sprague Hall, Kingman Brewster, Jr. electrified those in attendance with his observation that he found it unlikely that the black revolutionaries could get a fair trial anywhere in the United States. This comment quickly gained the attention of the national media.

U.S. Vice President Spiro Agnew’s speech at a Florida fundraiser on 28 April calling on Yale alumni to demand that Brewster be fired caused an outpouring of letters and telegrams from Yale constituents and others, either supporting Brewster and castigating Agnew, or vice versa. Indeed, it may very well have been Agnew’s attack that focused support in the Yale community around Brewster’s handling of student and faculty unrest. A relatively unified Yale thus completed preparations for the May Day rally weekend.

6a.1
Final three paragraphs, containing his controversial statement about the ongoing Black Panther trial, of Kingman Brewster, Jr.’s remarks at a Yale College faculty meeting, transcription of original, 1970 April 23.
May Day Rally and Yale Collection (RU 86), Accession 1971-A-004, Box 2, Folder 3.
6a.2
Yale President Kingman Brewster, Jr. at press conference, photograph, circa 1970.
Images of Yale Individuals (RU 684), Box 8, Folder 284.

6a.3&4 (single label)
Letter (left) to Kingman Brewster, Jr. from Lowell Dodge (B.A. '63) supporting his actions and supplying the full text of U.S. Vice President Spiro T. Agnew's speech at a Republican fund-raising event in Florida the previous evening attacking Brewster and calling for his resignation, and page 2 of the accompanying text of Agnew's speech, 1970 April 28-29 (left).
Office of the President, Yale University, Records Concerning the May Day Rally (RU 16), Box 2, Folder 14.

6a.5,6&7 (single label)
Letters to Kingman Brewster, Jr. in support of his comments and actions from Joseph L. Dickmann (left), Marjorie J. Dietz (center), and John B. Dillon, Jr. (B.A. '67), 1970 April 29.
Office of the President, Yale University, Records Concerning the May Day Rally (RU 16), Box 2, Folder 14.

6a.8,9&10 (single label)
Letters and a telegram to Kingman Brewster, Jr. criticizing his comments and actions from J.J. Donlon (left), Benjamin S. Downs (center, B.A. '36), and George C. Dodge, telegram is a reproduction of original, 1970 April 29 (center) and May 1.
Office of the President, Yale University, Records Concerning the May Day Rally (RU 16), Box 2, Folder 14.

6b.11
May Day Rally and Yale Collection (RU 86), Accession 1971-A-004, Box 2, Folder 7.

6b.12
Office of the President, Yale University, Records Concerning the May Day Rally (RU 16), Box 2, Folder 14.

6b.13
YYg15 N47 (local call number).

6b.14
Office of the President, Yale University, Records Concerning the May Day Rally (RU 16), Box 8, Folder 73.

6b.15
Office of the President, Yale University, Records Concerning the May Day Rally (RU 16), Box 8, Folder 71.

**Final Preparations: 28-30 April 1970**

The days leading up to the rally were characterized by cohesion at Yale and in New Haven around a desire for a non-violent protest. One by one each residential college voted to open its doors to rally attendees, offering hot meals, daycare, places to sleep, and as it turned out, a safe haven from tear gas.

Student editorials, press releases, and broadsides illustrate the strong emotions prevalent across campus and community and reflect the increasingly common notion, shared by local Black Panther leaders, that a peaceful May Day event was the most productive way to draw attention to the injustices many felt were playing out in a New Haven courtroom. As locals hoped for the best and prepared for the worst, protesters from around the country made plans to join in the May Day rally in New Haven.

7a.1&2 (single label)
Boston Black Panther Party captain Douglas Miranda speaking at second Ingalls Rink rally (left), and Yale Daily News article reporting on the rally, photograph by Michael Lawler (left) and reproduction of original article, 1970 April 29 (left)-30.
Yale Alumni Magazine Photographs (RU 694), Box 5, Folder 123 (left), and YYg15 N47 (local call number).

7a.3
Office of the President, Yale University, Records Concerning the May Day Rally (RU 16), Box 5, Folder 47.

7a.4
Poster advertising the second Ingalls Rink rally, called to discuss post-May Day demands and actions, 1970 April 29.
May Day Rally and Yale Collection (RU 86), Accession 1971-A-004, Box 2, Folder 6.

7a.5
First page of press release from Yale Student Monitoring Committee on the upcoming May Day rally, 1970 April 29.
Office of the President, Yale University, Records Concerning the May Day Rally (RU 16), Box 8, Folder 71.
7a.6
May Day Rally and Yale Collection (RU 86), Accession 1971-A-004, Box 2, Folder 10.

7b.7
"Free Bobby," tear-out poster from the Plain Dealer, a Philadelphia underground newspaper, advertising bus transportation to the New Haven May Day rally, 1970 April 30.
May Day Rally and Yale Collection (RU 86), Accession 1971-A-004, Box 2, Folder 10.

7b.8
The Proceedings in the Black Panther Case, introductory memorandum from the Yale Law School Trial Report Committee and the first page of its report, 1970 April 29. Office of the President, Yale University, Records Concerning the May Day Rally (RU 16), Box 8, Folder 71.

7b.9
May Day Rally and Yale Collection (RU 86), Accession 1971-A-004, Box 2, Folder 6.

7b.10
First page of Strike Newspaper press release on final preparations for the May Day rally, 1970 April 29.
May Day Rally and Yale Collection (RU 86), Accession 1971-A-004, Box 2, Folder 7.

Panther! Bulldog! Protest!

As Friday, 1 May, dawned on the New Haven Green, members of the Chicago Seven—indicted, tried, and acquitted along with Bobby Seale for conspiracy relating to the riots that accompanied the 1968 Democratic National Convention in that city—held a press conference at the Center Church on the Green. The afternoon rally itself attracted approximately 15,000 people. Speeches and music dominated the weekend, with speakers including among others local Black Panther leaders, Chicago Seven defendants Abbie Hoffman and Jerry Rubin, and French author and activist Jean Genet.

At the encouragement of local and Yale officials, the National Guard, deployed by Connecticut Governor John Dempsey, maintained a discrete but ready presence several blocks from the Green armed with loaded rifles and tear gas.

8a.1,2&3 (single label)
May Day rally attendees on the New Haven Green, two photographs by John T. Hill (left) and Stephen West (right), and "Practice Nonviolence" tag from the rally (center), 1970 May 1. Student Life at Yale Photographs (RU 736), Box 11, Folder 417 (left); May Day Rally and Yale Collection (RU 86), Accession 1971-A-004, Box 5, Folder 8 (center); Yale Alumni Magazine Photographs (RU 694), Box 6, Folder 124 (right).
8a.4&5 (single label)
Female May Day rally attendee resting on grass, photograph (left), and May Day New Haven information newspaper cover, 1970 May 1.
Yale Alumni Magazine Photographs (RU 694), Box 6, Folder 124 (left), and Office of the President, Yale University, Records Concerning the May Day Rally (RU 16), Box 7, Folder 69.

8a.6
Fold-out map insert from the May Day New Haven information newspaper showing locations of first aid stations and telephones, 1970 May 1.
Office of the President, Yale University, Records Concerning the May Day Rally (RU 16), Box 7, Folder 69.

8b.7&8 (single label)
Damage from a bomb set off anonymously around 11:45 PM in the basement of Ingalls Rink, two photographs, 1970 May 1.
Office of the President, Yale University, Records Concerning the May Day Rally (RU 16), Box 7, Folder 62.

8b.9
National guard troops in a jeep on the Elm Street side of the New Haven Green, photograph, 1970 May 1.
Student Life at Yale Photographs (RU 736), Box 11, Folder 417.

8b.10
John R. Williams Papers (MS 1398), Box 5, Folder 34.

8b.11, 12&13 (single label)
Press conference at Center Church on the Green featuring Chicago Seven defendants David Dellinger, Lee Weiner, Abbie Hoffman, and Rennie Davis (center, left to right) and spectator with Yippie flag draped over balcony (right), three photographs, 1970 May 1.
Yale Alumni Magazine Photographs (RU 694), Box 6, Folders 123-124.

9a.1
Strike Newspaper published the day of the rally, pages 2-3, and the day's schedule from the insert accompanying the paper, enlarged reproduction of original, 1970 May 1.
May Day Rally and Yale Collection (RU 86), Accession 1971-A-004, Box 2, Folder 7.

9a.2&3 (single label)
Chicago Seven defendants Abbie Hoffman (left) and Jerry Rubin speaking at the May Day rally on New Haven Green, two photographs, 1970 May 1.
Yale Alumni Magazine Photographs (RU 694), Box 6, Folder 123.
9a.4&5 (single label)
French novelist and political activist Jean Genet speaking at the May Day rally on New Haven Green, photograph, 1970 May 1 (left) and the beginning of his speech that day, published with an introduction by Allen Ginsberg in May Day Speech (City Lights Books, 1970), pages 6-7.
Yale Alumni Magazine Photographs (RU 694), Box 6, Folder 123 (left); Movement (Protest) Collection (MS 617), Box 25, Black Panther Party folder.

9b.6&7 (single label)
May Day rally participants on New Haven Green, two photographs, 1970 May 1.
Yale Alumni Magazine Photographs (RU 694), Box 6, Folder 124 (left); Student Life at Yale Photographs (RU 736), Box 11, Folder 417.

9b.8&9 (single label)
May Day rally participants on New Haven Green, two photographs by Robert Childs, 1970 May 1.
Yale Alumni Magazine Photographs (RU 694), Box 6, Folder 124.

9b.10&11 (single label)
Daycare for children of rally participants offered by Yale students in Davenport College courtyard (left), and Yale students feeding rally attendees, two photographs (right by Stephen West), 1970 May 1.
Student Life at Yale Photographs (RU 736), Box 11, Folder 417 (left); Yale Alumni Magazine Photographs (RU 694), Box 5, Folder 123.

Much of the violence during the May Day weekend took place on Friday and Saturday nights. Local police and National Guard troops used tear gas to control demonstrations, which involved bottle and rock throwing, and several bombs exploded towards the end of a rock concert at Yale’s Ingalls Rink, though there were no injuries. In downtown New Haven, windows in some businesses were broken and several suspicious fires occurred.

Yale student marshals were essential in communicating with protesters and keeping the peace. The New Haven FBI office maintained a large presence and FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover sent daily reports on the rally to top Nixon Administration officials. Despite pre-rally rhetoric and fears the rally was, for the most part, a non-violent protest.

10a.1
Yale student marshals wearing headbands during rally, photograph, 1970 May 1.
Yale Alumni Magazine Photographs (RU 694), Box 6, Folder 127.

10a.2&3 (single Sarah label)
"Friday Night," Strike Newspaper front cover article and back page continuation reporting on overnight events, 2 May 1970.
May Day Rally and Yale Collection (RU 86), Accession 1971-A-004, Box 2, Folders 7-8.
10a.4
May Day Rally and Yale Collection (RU 86), Accession 1971-A-004, Box 2, Folder 2.

10a.5&6 (single label)
Student marshal washing the eyes of a photographer (left), and crowd observing tear gas, two photographs (left by Robert Childs), 1970 May 2.
Yale Alumni Magazine Photographs (RU 694), Box 6, Folder 124 (left) and 127.

10b.7,8&9 (single label)
Men and women attending May Day rally on New Haven Green, three photographs (lower left by John T. Hill), 1970 May 1-2.
Yale Alumni Magazine Photographs (RU 694), Box 6, Folder 124.

10b.10
First page of the Strike Steering Committee’s summary of an unsatisfactory meeting with Kingman Brewster, Jr. regarding the 26 April strike demands, 1970 May 3.
Office of the President, Yale University, Records Concerning the May Day Rally (RU 16), Box 8, Folder 71.

10b.11
Yale Alumni Magazine Photographs (RU 694), Box 6, Folder 127.

10b.12
FOIA-requested photocopy of a memorandum, sent via enciphered teletype, from FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover to top-level Nixon Administration officials reporting on the second day of the May Day rally, 1970 May 3.
John R. Williams Papers (MS 1398), Box 5, Folder 34.

**The Black Panthers and the FBI**

The FBI infiltrated and harassed the Black Panther Party across the country, including in New Haven. FBI documents assembled after their declassification and donated to Yale in 1984 by John R. Williams, an attorney for several of the New Haven Black Panther defendants, show graphically how intensely Panther activity was monitored for several years. FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover believed strongly that “the Black Panther Party, without question, represents the greatest threat to internal security of the country” and marshaled the agency’s resources to counter that perceived threat. The coincidence in May 1969 of Panther leader Bobby Seale’s presence and the execution of Alex Rackley brought New Haven into sharp focus throughout the 1970s in the ongoing cold war between the FBI and the Black Panthers.
11a.1
Black Panther manifesto, with a depiction of Black Panther Party Chairman Bobby Seale in an electric chair, broadside, circa 1970.
Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, BrSides Double Folio 2012 8.

11a.2
FOIA-requested photocopy of an FBI memorandum (above) and accompanying copies of Black Panther Party handouts about BPP social welfare activities in New Haven (this shelf), circa 1970 April-May.
John R. Williams Papers (MS 1398), Box 5, Folder 34.

11a.3
John R. Williams Papers (MS 1398), Box 5, Folder 34.

The Trials

Bobby Seale and eight other Black Panther Party members were indicted and stood trial in New Haven for the murder of Alex Rackley. Cameras were not allowed in courtrooms, so artist Robert Templeton sketched the proceedings and raced them over to the news media for publication. The national media closely followed the trials.

Although three of the defendants, Lonnie McLucas, George Sams, and Warren Kimbro, were convicted of murdering Alex Rackley and sentenced to prison terms, the other defendants were not convicted. Bobby Seale’s trial ended in a hung jury and a decision by the judge that the state could not retry him on the charges.

11b.4
Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, JWJ MS 33, Box 3.

11b.5
Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, JWJ MS 33, Box 4, Number 24.

11b.6
Office of the President, Yale University, Records Concerning the May Day Rally (RU 16), Box 8, Folder 71.

11b.7
Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, JWJ MS 33, Box 2, Number 36.

**Aftermath: Yale**

The Strike Steering Committee at Yale issued a series of demands of the university administration, striving for a campus-wide consensus on issues raised by various groups before the May Day rally. One demand led to the establishment of the Calvin Hill Day Care Center, named after a football star and Class of 1967 alumnus.

Documentation of the rally and its aftermath began almost immediately. The Yale President’s office organized its records of the event, and many participants donated related materials to the Yale University Archives. John Taft (B.A. '72) and several other students in a 1971 seminar taught by Professor Donald Kagan conducted interviews (now in Manuscripts and Archives) with many of the key May Day rally players, which served as source material for Taft’s 1976 *Mayday at Yale: A Case Study in Student Radicalism*, the first book-length treatment of the event.

12a.1
First page of a memorandum from BSAY and black faculty and administrators to the Strike Steering Committee critiquing Yale President Kingman Brewster, Jr.'s 3 May response to the Strike Steering Committee's 30 April demands, 1970 May 5.
Office of the President, Yale University, Records Concerning the May Day Rally (RU 16), Box 9, Folder 85.

12a.2
Yg11 +B3 (local call number).

12a.3
"Calvin Hill To Speak At Benefit Concert," article announcing the appearance of Dallas Cowboys linebacker Calvin Hill (B.A. '69) at a Yale Symphony Orchestra benefit concert for the campus day care center named for him, Yale Daily News, front page, reproduction of original, 1970 May 8.
YYg15 N47 (local call number).

12b.4
First three pages of the transcript of an oral history interview on May Day rally events with Kurt Schmoke (B.A. '71), a BSAY member and Secretary of the Class of 1971, conducted by Brook Manville, 1971 March 31.
12b.5
Yh10 +A2 (local call number).

12b.6
Yg11 +B3 (local call number).

12b.7
First three pages of the transcript of an oral history interview on May Day rally events with Henry Chauncey, Jr., Special Assistant to the Yale President, conducted by Mr. Solomon, 1971 April 4. May Day Rally and Yale Collection (RU 86), Accession 1983-A-108, Box 1, Folder 2.

**Aftermath: Yale and Beyond**

The demands made of Yale by the various groups responsible for organizing the student strike and May Day rally continued to resonate throughout 1970 and beyond. Student protests during meetings of the Yale Corporation kept many of these issues at the forefront of Kingman Brewster, Jr.’s administration of the university. Communication to and from the president’s office with a variety of campus and community stakeholders stressed Brewster’s long-standing preference for open dialog concerning resolution of the many issues fermenting on America’s campuses during the 1960s.

The Nixon Administration’s escalation of the war in Vietnam continued to incite protests and anti-war activism, especially in college and university campus communities.

13a.1
May Day Rally and Yale Collection (RU 86), Accession 1971-A-004, Box 2, Folder 7.

13a.2
Letter to Kingman Brewster, Jr. from Michael P. Deasy, President of the Student Community Housing Corp., regarding Yale’s commitments to housing and economic development in New Haven, 1970 May 5.
Office of the President, Yale University, Records Concerning the May Day Rally (RU 16), Box 8, Folder 70.

13a.3
The New Leader, Volume 53, Number 13, cover featuring a photograph of the New Haven May Day rally, 1970 June 22.
Office of the President, Yale University, Records Concerning the May Day Rally (RU 16), Box 9, Folder 85.
13a.4
"Greet the Corporation With the Demands," poster for a mass rally in Beinecke Plaza, 1970 May 9.
May Day Rally and Yale Collection (RU 86), Accession 1971-A-004, Box 2, Folder 6.

13b.5
Letter to Yale parents and alumni from President Kingman Brewster, Jr. explaining his administration's decisions in handling the May Day rally events, 1970 May 15.
Office of the President, Yale University, Records Concerning the May Day Rally (RU 16), Box 8, Folder 81.

13b.6
Letter to Kingman Brewster, Jr. from Peter Coburn (B.A. '59) regarding Yale's handling of the May Day rally, 1970 May 27.
Office of the President, Yale University, Records Concerning the May Day Rally (RU 16), Box 2, Folder 10.

13b.7
Letter to Kingman Brewster, Jr. from William K. Coblentz (LL.B. '47), a member of the Regents of the University of California, congratulating Yale on "the magnificent manner in which you handled last weekend's convocations," 1970 May 6.
Office of the President, Yale University, Records Concerning the May Day Rally (RU 16), Box 2, Folder 10.

13b.8
Office of the President, Yale University, Records Concerning the May Day Rally (RU 16), Box 7, Folder 62.

13b.9
May Day Rally and Yale Collection (RU 86), Accession 1971-A-004, Box 5, Folder 8.

Aftermath: “Four Dead in Ohio”

_Tin soldiers and Nixon coming,
   We’re finally on our own._
_This summer I hear the drumming,
   Four dead in Ohio._
_- Neil Young, “Ohio,” released as a single by Crosby, Stills, Nash, & Young in June 1970._

1 May 1970 was a day of spontaneous protests on campuses across the nation. Students and others at Kent State University in Kent, Ohio, staged a rally opposing the U.S. ground invasion of Cambodia, announced by President Richard Nixon the previous day, and the accompanying escalation of the war in Vietnam. Violent confrontations between students and local police resulted
in a fire that destroyed the ROTC Building on campus and the decision of Ohio Governor James Rhodes to call in the Ohio National Guard. The tense atmosphere on the Kent State campus exploded as troops opened fire on protesters on 4 May, killing four students and wounding nine others.

The tragic events at Kent State stand as a reminder of what might have happened in New Haven that same weekend, and as a testament to the less confrontational, more dialog-based approach to student unrest adopted at Yale.

14a.1
News wire, Morning Ohio News Roundup, reporting on a speech by General Sylvester Del Corso, head of the Ohio National Guard, in which he called students, black activists, and campus dissenters "the Communist conspiracy," reproduction of original, undated, but before the killing of four students at Kent State University by troops from the Ohio National Guard.
ACLU of Ohio Kent State Project Records (MS 1800), Box 107, Folder "News Articles, 1970s."

14a.2
Fireman in front of the smoldering ruins of the ROTC Building at Kent State University, a fire assumed to have been set by students and others protesting the escalation of the Vietnam War by the Nixon administration, photograph by Howard E. Ruffner, 1970 May 2.
ACLU of Ohio Kent State Project Records (MS 1800), Box 103, Folder 1.

14a.3
Police officer arresting anti-war protesters at Kent State University, photograph by Howard E. Ruffner, 1970 May 2.
ACLU of Ohio Kent State Project Records (MS 1800), Box 103, Folder 2.

14a.4
Line of gas-masked Ohio National Guard troops advancing on students and other protesters at Kent State University, photograph by Howard E. Ruffner, 1970 May 4.
ACLU of Ohio Kent State Project Records (MS 1800), Box 103, Folder 1.

14a.5
Report, boxed in black line, of the killing of four students and wounding of twelve others by the Ohio National Guard at Kent State University the previous day, Strike Newspaper, front cover, 1970 May 5.
May Day Rally and Yale Collection (RU 86), Accession 1971-A-004, Box 2, Folder 7.

14a.6&7 (single label)
Protester fleeing tear gas at Kent State University (left), and Ohio National Guard troops in gas masks with bayonettes fixed confronting protesters, two photographs by Howard E. Ruffner, 1970 May 4.
ACLU of Ohio Kent State Project Records (MS 1800), Box 103, Folder 3.

14b.8
Mary Ann Vecchio kneeling over the body of Jeffrey Miller, one of the students killed by Ohio National Guard troops at Kent State University, photograph by Howard E. Ruffner, 1970 May 4. ACLU of Ohio Kent State Project Records (MS 1800), Box 103, Folder 1.

14b.9
Reporting on nationwide student demonstrations and the killings at Kent State University, Strike Newspaper, front cover, 1970 May 6.
May Day Rally and Yale Collection (RU 86), Accession 1971-A-004, Box 2, Folder 7.

14b.10
Kent State University student John Cleary, wounded by Ohio National Guard gunfire, attended by other students, photograph by John A. Darnell, Jr., 1970 May 4.
ACLU of Ohio Kent State Project Records (MS 1800), Box 103, Folder 10.

14b.11
Wounded Kent State University student being evacuated by stretcher, photograph by Howard E. Ruffner, 1970 May 4.
ACLU of Ohio Kent State Project Records (MS 1800), Box 103, Folder 3.

14b.12
ACLU of Ohio Kent State Project Records (MS 1800), Box 52, Folder 5.

14b.13
Bullet casings and information card used as evidence in the trials that resulted from the Ohio National Guard shootings at Kent State University, circa 1970-1979.
ACLU of Ohio Kent State Project Records (MS 1800), Box 52, Folder 6.

14b.14
ACLU of Ohio Kent State Project Records (MS 1800), Box 52, Folder 5.