

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*Storms and Quiet Before the Storm*¹

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People move
Swaying and chanting
Milling crowds surround a scene
Engage themselves
Envelop the air
And are mesmerized

Each plays his game
A time for fun
A respite
What pains are taken
What prices paid
To escape the Common

We hear a scream
The air explodes
A whistle blows
And games begun
Begin the terror

Silence
Retreat
Silence and thought
Each man alone
Reviews his plight

No longer grand
The world has changed
Guards don't see
All are enraged
And so are we

The bombs
The fires
The Cause
The noise
Blood

¹This is the first of two polemics, written for my colleagues in teacher education, for anyone who loves the university, and for those who are seeking to better comprehend it.

And for what?
And for whom?
For unrest
For principle
But not for forbearance

Not for love
Not for charity
Not for forgiveness
Not for humanity
Not for man

They say they are not playing games
While they are
Yet they're not
While they are
While they're not

One man is dead
The calm returns
Crowds regroup
I am
But more alone

And so is the university
And all the universities I love
Who are being forsaken
As the dead have been forsaken
As the universities die

And for whom?
Not for Cambodia
Not for Viet Nam
Not for Earth Day
For the destroyer

The true issue is the University
The true mission is its destruction
The true antagonist is reason
Against thoughtfulness
Against freedom

I sought honor and civilization here
I believed it could be found
As you believed
For if not here
Where?

And now all seems lost
While we argue about Cambodia
Not about the university
Yet without the university
Could we argue about Cambodia?

The right and the left and the center
And those for and those against
Are the university
As we knew it to be
Before its demise

I will mourn its destruction
Not because it will be ruled
First by the left
Then by the right
Then by the mindless

I will mourn its destruction
As I mourn for a loved one
As I wish you will mourn for me
As I will mourn for you
And for everything I cherish

The university is not worth sacrificing others for
And nothing is worth killing for
But someday one man may remember
What chances we had
What the world could have been

And he may regret
That we did nothing
That we watched the fires
That we didn't believe
That we too are the university

That the university is worth my sacrifice
That I will not join you who mean to destroy it
That as I try to protect you
I will resist
As I seek to understand you

But I will resist