

NEWS BUILDING, TARENTUM, PENNSYLVANIA 15084

DISPATCH BUILDING, NEW KENSINGTON, PENNSYLVANIA 15068

THE VALLEY DAILY NEWS

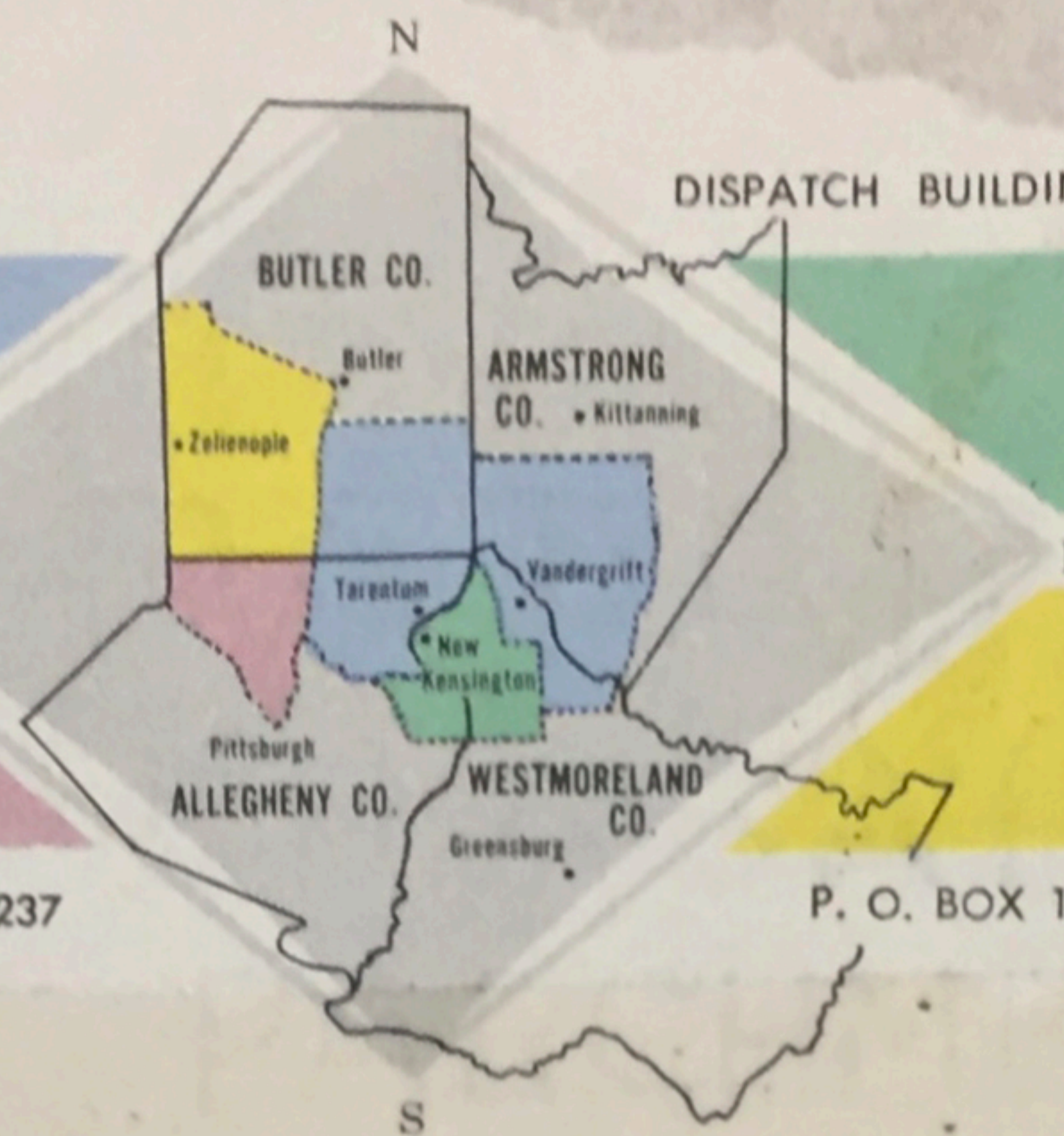
Daily Dispatch

NORTH HILLS NEWS-RECORD

BUTLER COUNTY
NEWS-RECORD

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Reply to:

This letter is to nominate John Filo, 21, for a 1971 Pulitzer Prize in Journalism for his photographs of the national tragedy at Kent State (Ohio) University during the spring of 1970.

The photographs enclosed in this exhibit were taken by Filo, a photo-illustration student at Kent State and a summer intern news photographer at the News & Dispatch of Tarentum and New Kensington, Pa. He had been a summer intern photographer for News & Dispatch since his graduation from Highlands High School in Natrona Heights, near Tarentum.

Filo had learned his job well during those summers and when student demonstrations continued at Kent State on May 4 he was on campus with his camera. He had a feeling something was about to happen and at noon that day he began working as a news photographer.

There were other photographers in the field that day, but the photographs John Filo made--at the risk of being shot himself--caught the tragedy and terror of a high-water mark of campus unrest and confrontation in the United States. After the shootings, the university was closed and Filo drove 110 miles from the campus to his home newspaper.

The photographs taken by Filo were published by newspapers and later by magazines around the world.

The photograph of the young girl kneeling over the body of Jeffrey Miller, one of four students killed, was carried on the front pages of hundreds of newspapers throughout the United States and the world. It became a symbol of college protest in our country.

The photograph became part of the instant outcry of students, parents, state and federal officials and college administrators for a return to reason and sanity in protest and in controlling protest.

News & Dispatch offices were flooded with requests from news media throughout the world for permission to use the picture. Scores of requests from student underground newspapers were refused for fear the picture might be used for propaganda purposes.

Two newspapers--The Washington Post and The Boston Globe--sent reporters to the News & Dispatch to write a story on the picture itself.

The impact of the photograph is immeasurable, even today.