



SOCIAL AND POLITICAL CHANGE ON SOUTH UNIVERSITY

ART FAIR 1960



BY THE 1971 ART FAIR, PSYCHEDELIC ROCK, LONG HAIR, AFROS, AND TIE-DYED T-SHIRTS HAD REPLACED THE HIT PARADE MUSIC, CREW CUTS, SUITS, TIES, HATS AND GLOVES OF THE 1950S.



MINORITY STUDENTS ON SOUTH UNIVERSITY RETURNING FROM A THREE-DAY SIT-IN AT THE UM ADMINISTRATION BUILDING.

THE FIRST HASH BASH BROUGHT THOUSANDS OF YOUNG PEOPLE TO THE DIAG ON APRIL FOOL'S DAY 1971 TO CELEBRATE ANN ARBOR'S LENIENT PENALTIES FOR SMOKING MARIJUANA.



When local merchants began the Ann Arbor Art Fair in July 1960, South University catered to both townspeople and students. During 40 years of social and political change, the fair grew into a city-wide extravaganza. In the twentieth century, as fraternities, sororities, dormitories, and student rooms concentrated nearby, South University had become a focus of student activity. At this corner in the 1950s and 1960s you could have seen homecoming parades or panty raiders shouting "To the hill!" (women's

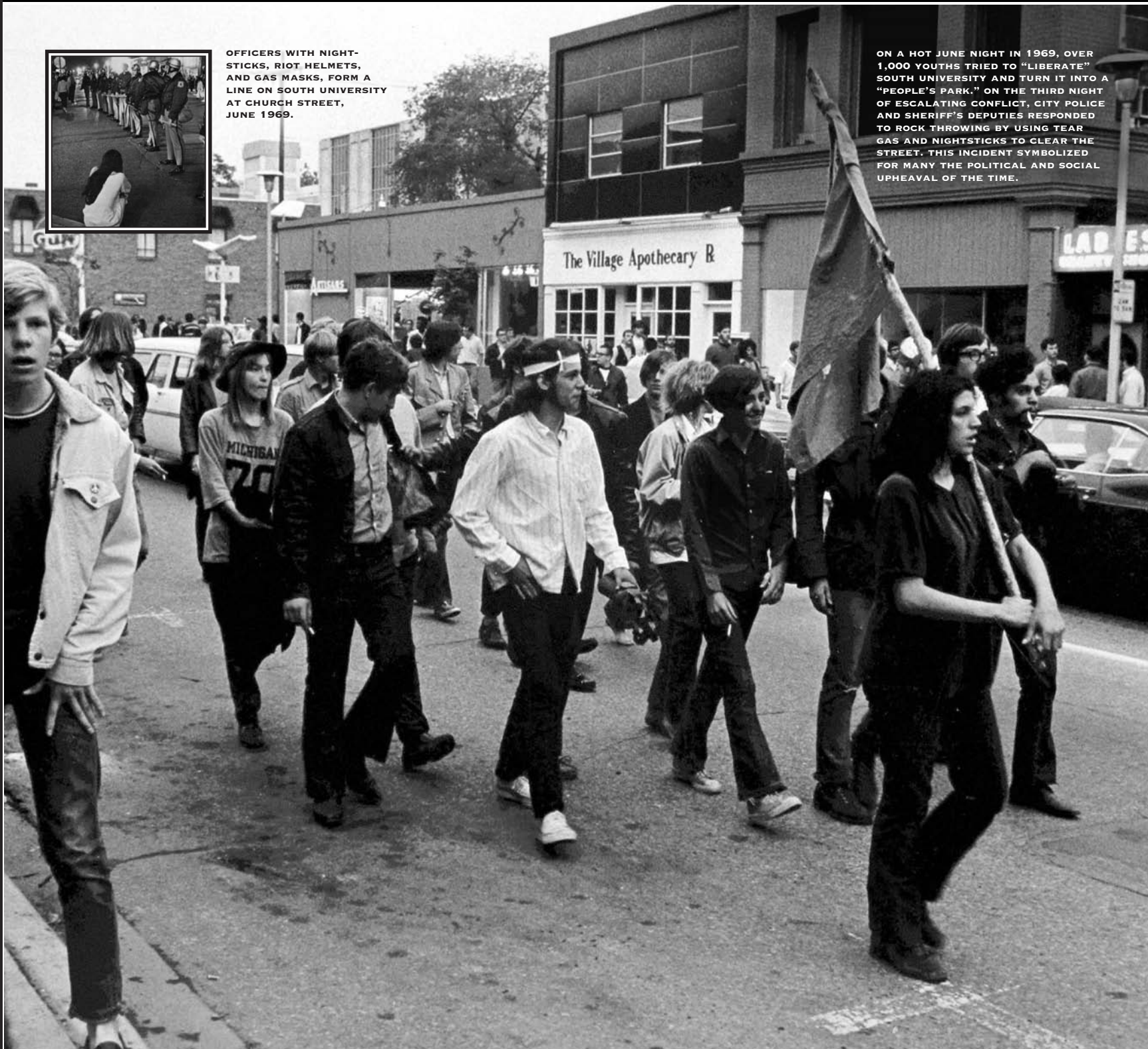
dorms). The 1980s saw a basketball riot and the 1990s the Naked Mile.

Political activities as well as pranks have always been a part of student life. Earlier students, fueled by alcohol, youth, and boredom, had torn up the town's wooden sidewalks for bonfires, disabled trolley cars, and shouted down presidential candidate William Jennings Bryan. They vigorously debated abolition, temperance, wars, and women's suffrage. During the Vietnam War, Ann Arbor became a center of the

national social and political firestorm. Students for a Democratic Society (SDS) and peace teach-ins originated at UM. Those turbulent years began with civil rights picketing, intensified with antiwar protests, White Panthers, Black Action Movement (BAM) strikes, and demonstrations for women's liberation and gay rights. "Make love not war!" and "Power to the people!" affronted middle-class values and expressed the new rebellious spirit that led to hippies, the sexual revolution, and the Hash Bash.



OFFICERS WITH NIGHTSTICKS, RIOT HELMETS, AND GAS MASKS, FORM A LINE ON SOUTH UNIVERSITY AT CHURCH STREET, JUNE 1969.



ON A HOT JUNE NIGHT IN 1969, OVER 1,000 YOUTHS TRIED TO "LIBERATE" SOUTH UNIVERSITY AND TURN IT INTO A "PEOPLE'S PARK." ON THE THIRD NIGHT OF ESCALATING CONFLICT, CITY POLICE AND SHERIFF'S DEPUTIES RESPONDED TO ROCK THROWING BY USING TEAR GAS AND NIGHTSTICKS TO CLEAR THE STREET. THIS INCIDENT SYMBOLIZED FOR MANY THE POLITICAL AND SOCIAL UPHEAVAL OF THE TIME.