



## The daily cardinal. May 5, 1969

Madison, Wisconsin: University of Wisconsin, [s.d.]

<https://digital.library.wisc.edu/1711.dl/YSX6ORO7MD6K38E>

The libraries provide public access to a wide range of material, including online exhibits, digitized collections, archival finding aids, our catalog, online articles, and a growing range of materials in many media.

When possible, we provide rights information in catalog records, finding aids, and other metadata that accompanies collections or items. However, it is always the user's obligation to evaluate copyright and rights issues in light of their own use.



## Block Party Turns to Chaos As Police Use Gas, Clubs

### Violence Reigns; Hospitals Treat 37

By RENA STEINZOR, LEN  
FLEISCHER and PETER  
GREENBERG

An outdoor party turned into a riot Saturday in the predominantly student populated Mifflin and Bassett Street area.

By Sunday afternoon, arrest rolls had grown to 50, including two city aldermen, Paul Soglin, Ward 8, and Eugene Parks, Ward 5.

### Bulletin

Some 100 students massed in front of the City-County building late Sunday night. They were greeted by approximately 100 city and county policemen and a crowd of local residents.

Fist fights broke out between the student demonstrators and the local residents, while the police watched from positions down the street and on the second floor of the city county building.

Finally, at about 11:20 p. m. the crowd, now substantially diminished in size, was given the order to disperse.

The demonstrators proceeded down State street. The street was soon bathed in tear and pepper gas. Some 1000 screaming students lined the streets.

Late Sunday, following the demonstration at the City County building, the City Council, the Mayor, and police representatives met in informal session.

By The Daily Cardinal Deadline bonfires were reported to have been started on State street and behind Kroger's.

Along State street windows were broken in several of the major stores. And police drove down the street spraying teargas as they went. Also, teargas was sprayed in high quantities in the Southeast dormitory area.

Students hurled rocks and bricks at passing patrol cars and officers. Two Molotov cocktails were reportedly hurled into Bassett St. late Saturday night.

As of 9:30 Sunday night, Madison General Hospital reported having treated 17 patients as a result of the melee. Six were students and 11 were Madison police, and all were injured Saturday.

The most seriously injured was a policeman with fractured ribs. Other injuries included scalp lacerations and shoulder pains and bruises. All patients were treated and released.

University hospital reported six cases, four from Saturday and two from Sunday. All five were students.

The Methodist Hospital reported 13 cases: four policemen and nine students. All but one of the patients were injured Saturday.

Police tactics escalated as darkness fell on the tense streets Saturday. Students erected barricades on Mifflin, Bassett, West Johnson and West Washington streets which were torn down numerous times by police patrol cars traveling at speeds estimated at 40 miles an hour.

The barricades were erected out of scrap lumber, garbage cans, and dirt. A large truck was pushed out into the middle of West Washington Avenue by students shouting "Paris Lives!"

Throughout the afternoon and evening and into Sunday afternoon, police demanding identification and destination arrested people at random and stopped groups walking along the street.

Tear gas canisters spitting flames crackled throughout the neighborhood until a dense pall had settled over the frame houses. Police hurled smaller canisters into crowds and open doorways in an effort to disperse the jeering students.

At one point, a house at 526 West Johnson was entered by police carrying rifles who forced the students to go inside upstairs at gunpoint.

A policeman was seen drawing his gun in the middle of Bassett Street in the middle of one of the many small battles that broke out throughout the night.

continued on the inside



—Cardinal photo by Mickey Pfleger

## Officials Grope To Learn Details; No One Knows

By MAUREEN SANTINI

Official reaction to the weekend events in the Mifflin area was concern and frustration because no one seemed to know what had really happened, or the chronology of it all.

One of the main issues seemed to be the fact that the students in the area did not have a permit for the party. Ald. Eugene Parks, Ward 5, called Madison Mayor William Dyke Saturday afternoon to ask for a permit, but was refused. Sunday afternoon both Ald. John Morris, Ward 19, president of the city council, and Assemblyman Edward Nager (D-Madison) again asked the mayor for a limited permit until about 10

p.m. Again Mayor Dyke refused, saying that he would be willing to meet with the leaders of the group to plan for future events but did not want to do things differently.

Dyke issued a statement saying that he joined the University in the authorization of suitable parking lots and tennis courts in the southeast dorm area for the party.

"If this solution is not accepted," said Dyke's statement, "it may be necessary for me to invoke the emergency powers of my office which could cause undue hardship to students and others in the community."

Ald. Jan Wheeler, Ward 18, called the disturbance "a deplorable situation." In a somewhat disgusted tone of voice, Wheeler said it appeared to him from talking to people who had witnessed the event, that the police had overreacted.

He said the city council had

given former Mayor Otto Festge the power to act on his own during times of emergency, which Dyke has now inherited.

"I figured it would come back to haunt him," said Wheeler, referring to the emergency resolution.

"The students obviously should have had a permit," said Wheeler.

Wisconsin Student Association (WSA) Pres. David Schaefer said WSA's bail fund was limited because of the February student strike, and that WSA was waiting until the bail for arrested students could be reduced from \$575, which he called "Absurd."

Schaefer said he had spoken with University Pres. Fred Harrington, University Chancellor Edwin Young and Mayor William Dyke Sunday afternoon, but with no results. Dyke reportedly told him that he was not going to back down to the students.

Speaking as the official voice continued on the inside

## Chronology of a Riot

### SATURDAY:

4:00 p. m. The street party was under way with about 300 students dancing in the 500 block of West Mifflin. Traffic was slowed, but no prevented from passing through the area.

4:30 p. m. A police car moved down Mifflin, and over a loudspeaker a policeman called for people to leave the street. It was met with boos and jeers.

5:00 p. m. About 15 riot equipped policemen entered Mifflin from Bassett street and forcibly cleared the streets. During the next two hours the police periodically charged into the crowd, seizing students who were thought to have made ob- and bottles into the street. During this time Ald. Paul Soglin, Ward 8 was first arrested and Ald. Eugene Parks, Ward 5 made his appeal to both sides

to cool it until he could get the police removed.

5:30 p. m. Parks returned to the crowd with the news that he had been unable to work out a compromise with city officials, and that Madison Mayor William Dyke had refused to grant the group a permit.

7:30 p. m. Darkness fell and students barricaded the streets. Police cars broke the barricades several times and students replaced them as best they could. Police patrolled the streets, making sporadic arrests and teargassing heavily. Activity continued in this manner until 12:30 a. m.

### SUNDAY:

3:45 p. m. Students began massing along the streets. Police drove through the area. Assemblyman Edward Nager (D-Madison)

told residents that he and Ald. Eugene Parks had again been unable to convince Mayor Dyke to grant a permit.

4:00 p. m. Police cars again drove through the area accompanied by paddy wagons. They broadcast the message that those on the streets were involved in an unlawful assembly and would be arrested if they did not disperse. Throughout the afternoon, arrests were sporadic. Police chased residents off the street onto porches, and then into their houses.

7:30 p. m. Darkness again fell and the neighborhood was again doused with teargas. Pepper gas was sprayed on individuals and into houses.

10:00 p. m. March on City-County building. 1000 participants.

## Madison Hospitals Treat Total of 41 Persons for Gassing, Minor Injuries

By WENDY KNOX

Madison area hospitals have been furiously busy treating policemen, students and bystanders who were injured and gassed during the Mifflin street melees Saturday and Sunday nights.

The University Hospital treated and released four patients Saturday night and two Sunday night for gas and minor injuries.

Saturday evening, Madison General Hospital treated and released 17 people, 11 of them policemen.

The Methodist Hospital, very near the scene at 309 W. Washington Ave., treated 13 people Saturday evening and another Sunday evening for the effects of tear gas.

Those who are suffering from the effects of tear gas advised to rinse the inflamed areas with water or a slightly saline solution. This is the only treatment for teargas. Injuries, however, should be reported immediately if they cannot be treated easily at home.



# Riot Escalates With Clubs, Gas

continued from the front page

Another home, 16 North Bassett, was the scene of a bloody one-sided battle between police and student dwellers. The patrolmen entered with swinging clubs to find some six students inside. They clubbed three and departed with two injured students, leaving a third behind them in convulsions on the floor.

Two other incidents of house entrances on West Mifflin by the police were reported but could not be verified. Another occurred in the 500 block of West Dayton St. None of the police had warrants.

A policeman threw a brick through the window of the Mifflin Street Coop late Saturday night. Sunday the students boarded over what was left of the panes.

The streets were relatively quiet by 12:30 a.m. Sunday although the confrontation began again that afternoon as students once again attempted to hold a block party on the 500 block of West Mifflin.

The original order to break up the party came to the police thru Madison Mayor William Dyke. Alderman Parks attempted to contact Dyke Saturday afternoon as students lined the streets and the police stalked nervously in the middle.

According to Parks, Dyke told him, "Gene, you know that they can't block off that road. One thing I know, from now on, whenever I go anyplace, I'll leave a message with the police dispatcher."

Assemblyman Ed Nager, District 5, again attempted to prevail on Dyke to reverse his decision early Sunday afternoon, before the second block party was to begin. City Council President John Mor-

ris reportedly added his voice to Nager's in imploring Dyke to grant at least a temporary permit for the dance. Dyke again refused, stating as his reason the "danger of setting a precedent," Nager stated.

Dyke officially stated early Sunday evening that alternate areas would be made available to the students for their party. (see story on this page).

Soglin was first arrested Saturday afternoon, shortly after the first party began. He drove his car up behind a police wagon and stopped. An officer came over to the car, exchanged words with the area's alderman, and dragged the limp Soglin into the van. Soglin was later released on \$107 bail with his hair cut. He commented, "They always told me an alderman was supposed to keep an eye on what is happening in his ward, that was all I was trying to do."

Soglin's second arrest came as he was standing on a strip of grass on Bassett early Sunday afternoon.

Parks first entered the scene shortly after six, Saturday afternoon. He spoke to the students over a police car loudspeaker saying, "I'm asking you not to leave the community, but just to leave the street. Someone is going to get hurt. I value human life."

Parks asked the students to give him twenty minutes for negotiations with Dyke, in an attempt to get the police withdrawn. He returned to the crowd defeated.

Parks' arrest came late Sunday afternoon as he was standing on a street corner, amidst a crowd of officers. A student being beaten further up the street drew his attention and, protesting, he started toward the student. The police collared him and dragged him into

the police van. He was charged with unlawful assembly and released on \$507 bail.

No one seemed to be safe from the possibility of arrest. The police refused to talk to reporters, and a reporter from the Capital Times expressed the fear that he would be arrested. Late Saturday night, several Cardinal reporters walking along Bassett street were stopped by patrolmen and, upon exhibiting their press passes, were told that they write for a "communist rag" and forced them to run for refuge in a house further down the street.

In one incident on West Dayton Street, a squad car pulled onto the sidewalk and began chasing, at about 20 miles an hour, a group of about eight frightened and wildly fleeing students. One person was nearly run down as police in the car sprayed gas into the doors of homes along a half block area.

According to Attorney Mel Greenberg, students in jail were released approximately two hours after their bail was paid. Average bail was \$107 for a disorderly conduct charge, but police told the Cardinal late Saturday night that one student had been charged with battery to a police officer and his bail had been set at \$1800. Several thousand dollars were collected in the streets during the riot by concerned residents who shouted, "The police have not left. This will go on. You may be the next one arrested, contribute to the bail fund."

Several elderly residents watched in concern from their porches. At one point late Saturday night, a middle aged couple prevented a group of students, at gunpoint, from taking refuge in their house.

A woman, seeing two students scaling a picket fence in an attempt to reach an adjoining house, screamed to the police to catch them.

One elderly man was arrested Sunday as he moved packages from his car into a house on Mifflin Street.

A car carrying what were apparently high school students roared down Bassett Street late Sunday as its occupants jeered, "Get those Jews out, cops, we're on your side."

The Mifflin Bassett street area is known as an area in which numbers of radical students, as well as students who are commonly referred to in the professional press as "hippies," live.

Comments of participating students ranged from brave attempts at humor to stark terror. One girl remarked shrilly, "I've never been encountered with tear gas before."

A few students attempted conversation with the police, "Gee, cops, you could have come to our party. Why did you have to bust it up?"

One policeman stated, "I really don't want or like to be here. It's part of my job, unfortunately."



—Cardinal photo by Michael Mally

Jules Rosenthal, a faculty member in behavioral disabilities, remarked, "It's just criminal the way this thing got out of hand."

Tom Wilson, freshman, reported that he had been sprayed with Mace: "I was standing on Mifflin when all of a sudden this one insane cop goes running with this cannister spraying every doorway. I made it inside and then I fell down." Wilson added that he was on the ground for fifteen minutes before he could walk away.

Another reported incident of Mace occurred Sunday evening as a student bicycling down Mifflin

was sprayed in the face by patrolmen in an unmarked car. As the boy fell from his bicycle and several onlookers rushed to help him, they were pelted with tear gas cannisters.

Joking was scarce but one student stated, "Gosh, I'll have to take Sociology 102 to understand all this."

"This is like the panty raids," another said.

The police were in the streets from 4 p.m. to 1 a.m. without relief. They exhibited signs of extreme strain often as they rushed houses screaming, "Okay, you guys, the party's over."



Blood on the floor at 16 North Bassett

—Cardinal photo by Mickey Pfleger

## Officials Express Concern

continued from the front page of WSA. Schaefer said "The Mifflin street community wanted to do something—but they were stopped by the police."

The Wisconsin Alliance, the political party which ran Eugene Parks for alderman in the spring election in a statement issued Sunday night, condemned the misuse of police power which they said occurred Saturday night in the Mifflin street area when "police illegally entered resident's houses to arrest people and in some cases beat them up."

The Wisconsin Alliance did not blame the policemen for the confrontation which occurred, saying the police could have been improperly trained.

"It is the fault of the chief of police Wilbur Emery or Mayor Dyke," said the statements. "Contrary to his reports chief of police was seen Saturday night at the sight of the police violence. Further, Dyke was in Madison Sunday when the same police actions continued," said the statement.

"We ask the people of Madison to protest this misuse of power as well as the misuse of their tax dollars. The funds used for riot

equipment should be used to better our community, not tear it up.

"The Wisconsin Alliance demands that wards have community control boards which would control the police rather than a mayor who is not interested in helping our community become a better place to live," concluded the statement.

Former Mayor Otto Festge, when contacted, said that it appeared there was a communication breakdown between students and city hall. "I certainly would have made every effort to work with students and give them a permit," said Festge.

When asked whether he thought the city council would meet in emergency session about the issue, Festge said it was basically an administrative problem and should be worked out at the administrative level, meaning it was under the jurisdiction of the mayor. The council is a legislative body.

Ald. Alicia Ashman, Ward 10, and Ald. Leo Cooper, Ward 9, were among some of those at the City-County building Sunday evening speaking with the mayor. Mrs. Ashman earlier had ex-

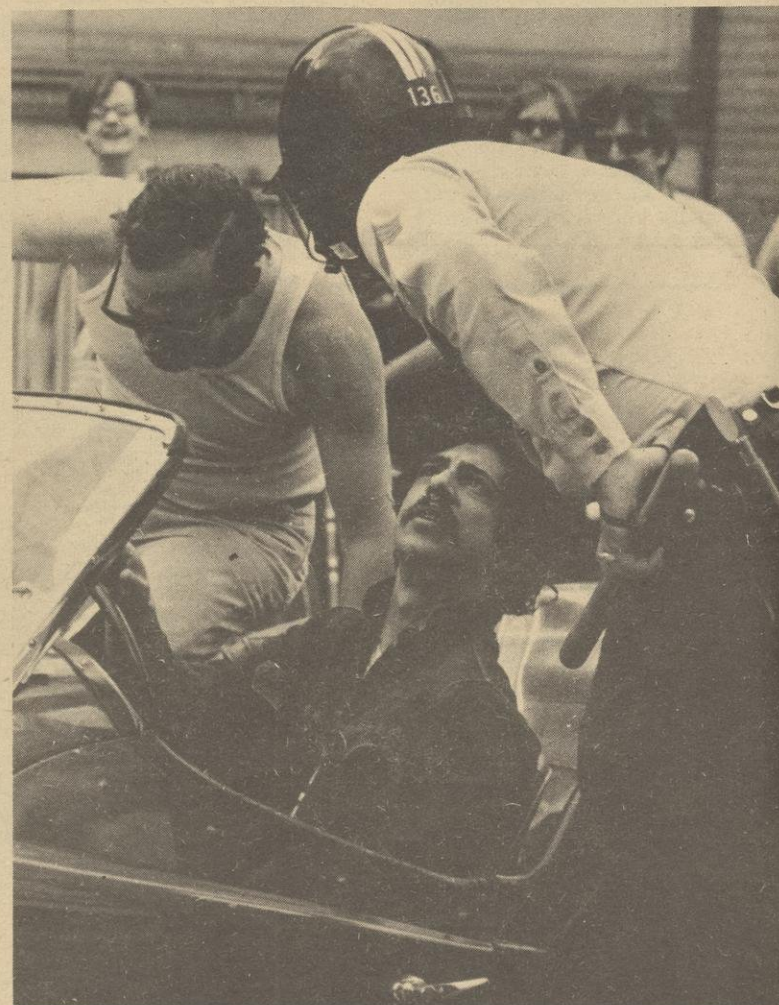
pressed regret over the fact that no one seemed to have the answers to the question she was asking about the confrontation between students and police.

Assemblyman Nager told the Cardinal that if any blood was shed, "it will have to lie at the feet of the mayor." Nager also said the mayor had shown no leadership and a decided lack of understanding of the students.

When contacted at home, Sen. Carl Thompson (D-Stoughton) said it would have been better if a permit had been given at the outset.

"It's most unfortunate that a confrontation did take place and resulted in a crisis. When asked what he thought about the mayor's refusal to issue a permit, Thompson said he "certainly was not protecting Dyke's interests," but did not know that much about the issue.

Another senator thought it was unfortunate that some people feel they have to get arrested to have fun. This was the opinion of Sen. Norman Anderson (R-McFarland) who said also, "If people are getting hurt all I can say is that it's unfortunate."



Paul Soglin just prior to his arrest —Cardinal photo by Michael Mally on Saturday afternoon.

see tuesday's  
cardinal  
for more news



# Pogrom

Through the clouds of burning gas and the mounds of jagged stone and hurled debris, one fact looms clear after this weekend's dreadful events: the police of this city have lost their minds and have become a real and dangerous threat to the lives of the people.

The roots of this intolerable situation are difficult to fathom. This city's police department has had a long and ugly history of poor relations with University students. Relations in the Mifflin-Basset St. area, the scene of this weekend's strife, have ceased to exist entirely.

Certainly, Saturday's block party posed no threat to the peaceful goings-on of the community. In fact, it was planned with the knowledge and consent of an overwhelming majority of the area's residents. The fact that a permit for the party was not applied for until late Saturday afternoon was no reason for the police actions. Last year, residents had legally asked for a permit for a similar gathering only to be brusquely refused. And a policeman's tearing down of the posters announcing this year's party a full two days before the weekend, added still further proof that this city was going to tolerate no sparks of community control and responsibility in the Mifflin-Basset area.

Students response to the initial police over-reaction was to be expected and was justified. When people are needlessly clubbed the party stops and the party favors turn into stones and eggs. When the law stands unfair and intolerant, there is little room for discussion. If a party of resistance was not originally planned, it was after the police action, justifiable reasons for forming.

The issue this weekend was clearcut. Community control, so hard fought on the streets of Hough and Watts and Harlem, as being demanded in the white university student community of Madison, Wisconsin. Here, as elsewhere, is was not tolerated. Mayor Dyke and his brother in blood, Police Chief Wilbur Emery, were proud to proclaim the legitimacy of their actions.

The policemen, perhaps the most unknowingly abused people of all, thought and acted just how this wretched, bigoted society has programmed them to. Students, resentful and frustrated, like ghetto dwellers in every major American city, violently reacted to their powerlessness in controlling their own lives. They, white and wealthy, were no different than the welfare mother or the poor black, under a policeman's stick.

It speaks for itself that such a reign of terror and prejudice has descended upon a classic liberal American city. The moral bankruptcy of the society that created Madison, Wisconsin and its police now and in the days and years to come, will eat away at the heart of this nation as it did to the streets of dairyland this weekend.

The student of Mifflin and Basset streets, like the poor black and white everywhere, has the right to decide for himself the direction his community must take in the face of societal repression.

If public officials and the police remain unmovingly opposed to this right as they show signs of doing, more and more people on the streets of Madison and elsewhere will be injured.

Yet the streets are not now the people's and to proclaim them as such would be grossly naive. And the streets will not be gotten by irrational acts such as Saturday night's student resistance.

Our resistance must be serious business; it must be humane business.

It must start now.

To this end, we call for an immediate Ward 5 resident meeting to select a citizen's committee to report to the mayor's office on the events of this weekend.

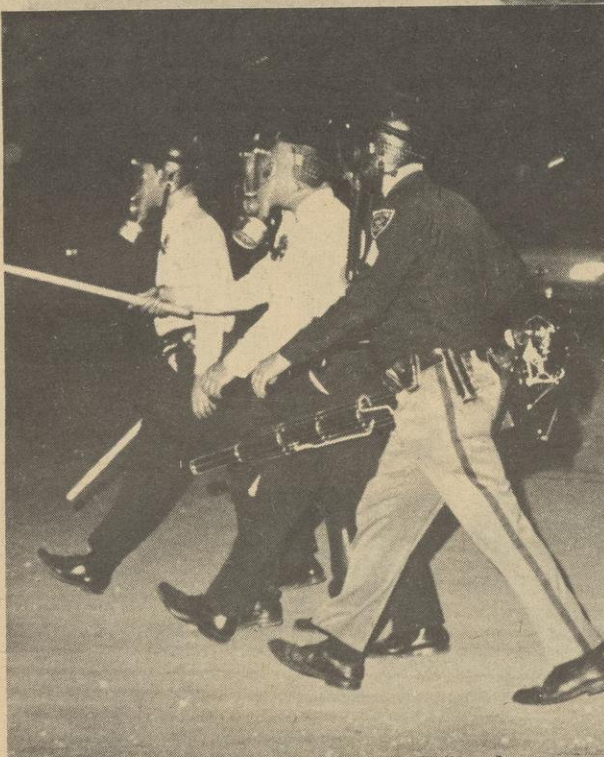
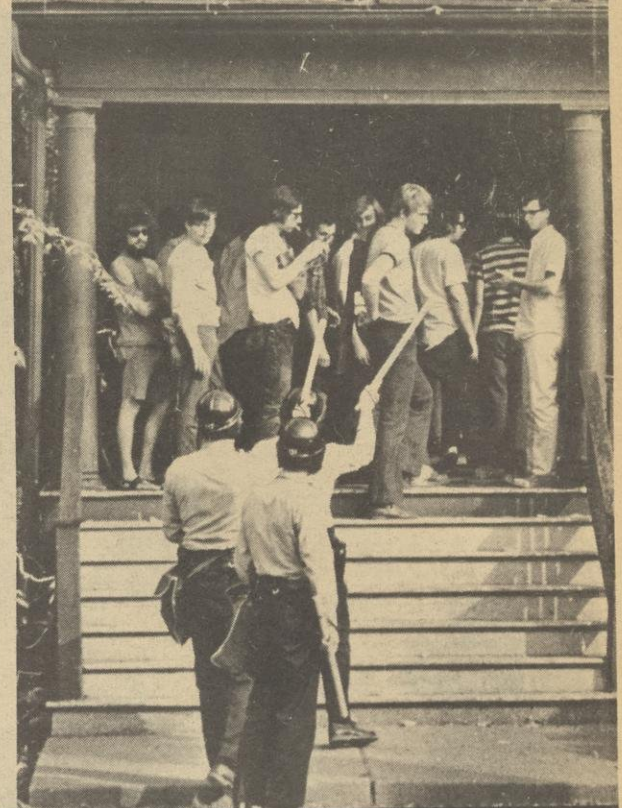
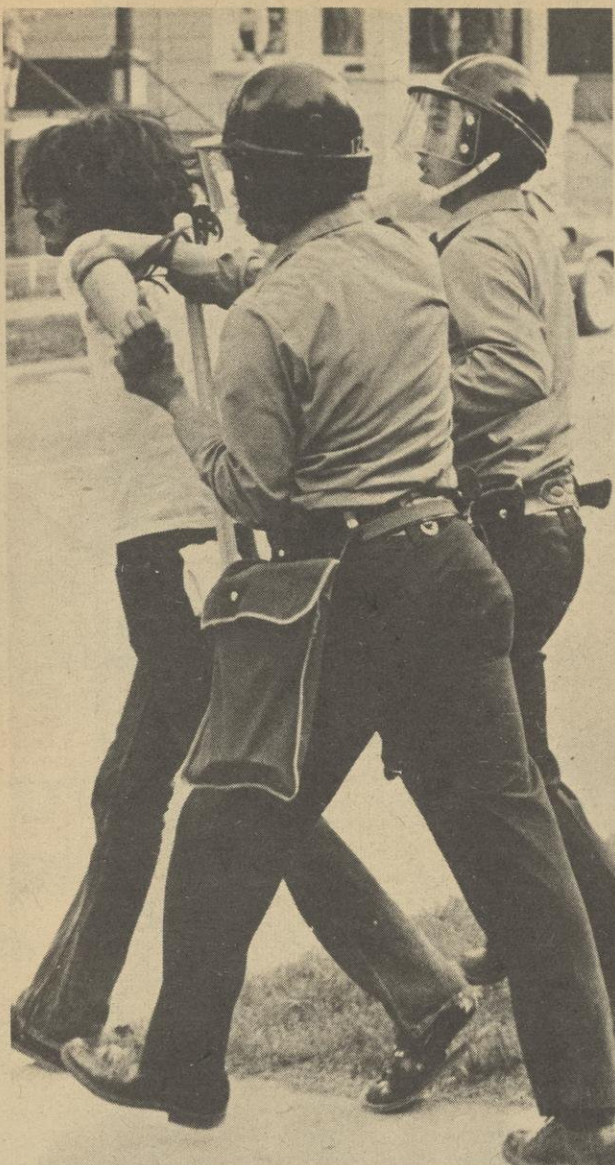
We call for an investigation of police conduct this weekend by a representative from the city, two Ward 5 residents, Ward Ald. Paul Soglin.

We demand that all charges be dropped against those persons arrested during this weekend's events.

We demand an official University condemnation of the police violence directed upon University students in Madison streets.

We expect these demands to be met. In the wake of such institutional violence they, at most, can only partially solve the wounds inflicted upon us.

Beware, students on Langdon street and Breese Terrace. Know it or not, you too live in a ghetto.





# The Daily Cardinal

SPECIAL EDITION

Monday, May 5, 1969

5 CENTS

