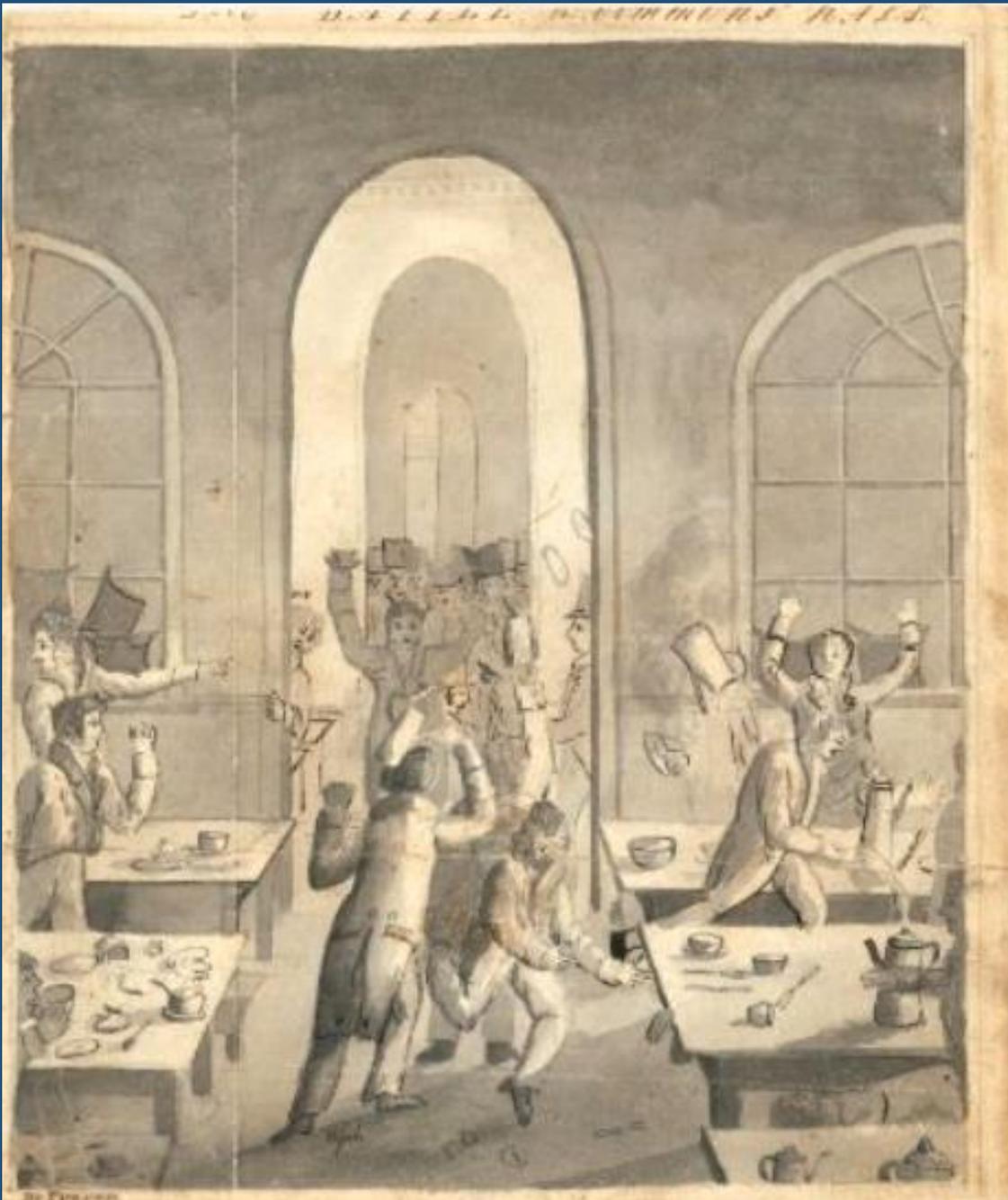


Radical Events (and Bad Behavior) in Cambridge, 1819-2000

Charles Sullivan

Cambridge Historical Commission

July 20, 2017



Harvard dining hall food fight, 1819



Spring Riot,
May 4, 1937

HARVARD STUDENTS APOLOGIZE FOR RIOT
Daily Boston Globe (1928-1960); Apr 24, 1932;
pg. A14

HARVARD STUDENTS APOLOGIZE FOR RIOT

Send Note of Deep Regret to Cambridge Police

A note of apology from members of the student body of Harvard University relative to the student riot of Thursday night was received yesterday through the mail by Chief of Police John J. McBride of Cambridge.

The anonymous note, which was typewritten on Harvard stationery, failed to draw any comment from the police head. The note follows:

"To the Cambridge police vice squad and other involved or injured citizens:

"With the calm of a true aftermath, Harvard, or, to be more exact, the class of 1935, wishes to express a formal apology to the Police Department, Fire Department and merchants in the Harvard sq vicinity for its inane and ridiculous conduct on Thursday night last, with specific apologies to Lieut John E. Winslow and other officers involved, and indirectly to Mayor Richard M. Russell, Radcliffe College.

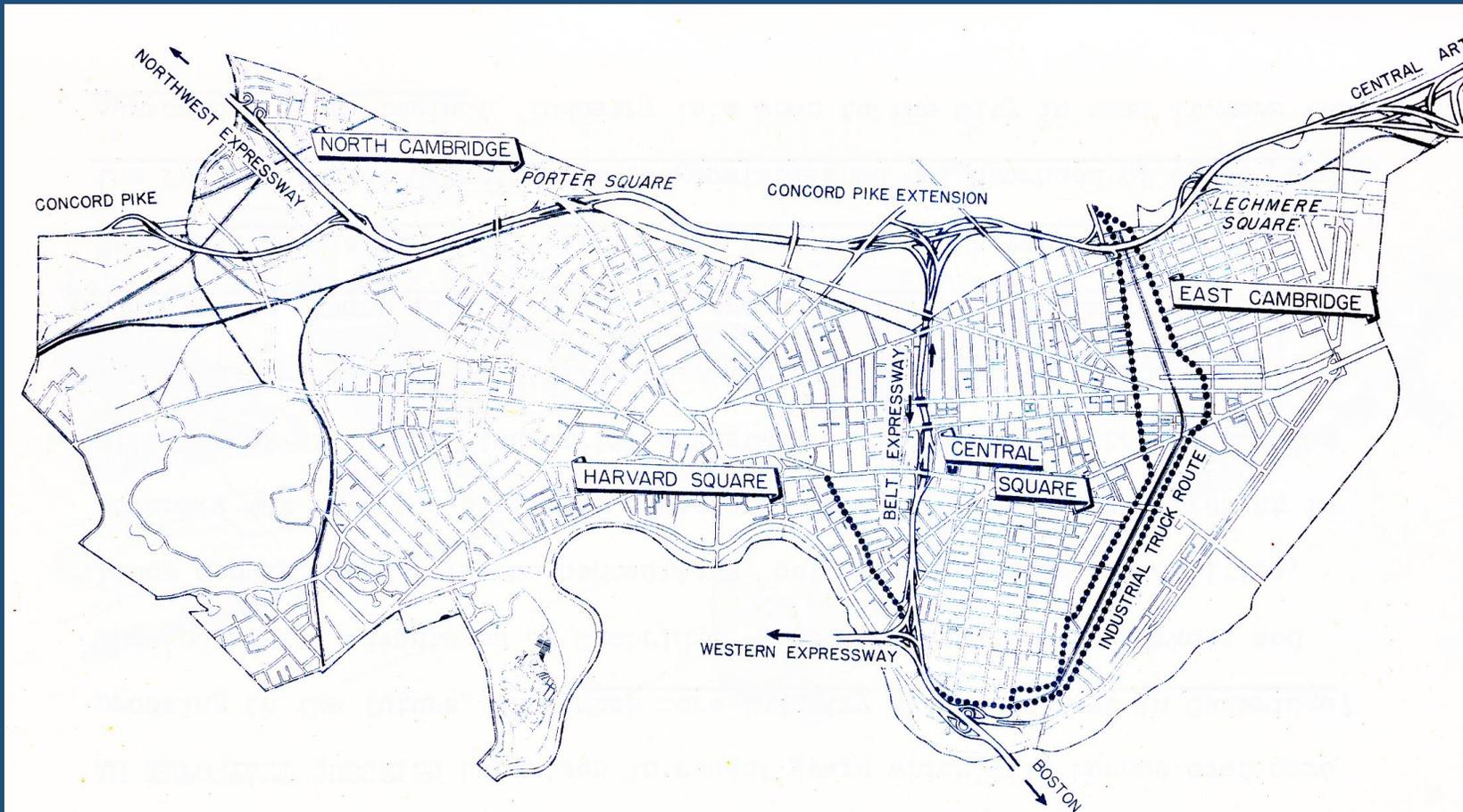
"Harvard leaves its position in the eye of the public to the clemency of those recipients of its outrageous conduct, at the same time hoping that these apologies will be accepted with a minimum amount of ill feeling."

In declining to comment on the communication Chief McBride pointed out that the stationery could be purchased in several Harvard sq stores.



The folk scene in Harvard Square attracted performers from all over New England. Joan Baez, shown performing behind the kiosk in 1959, used this picture on the cover of her first album

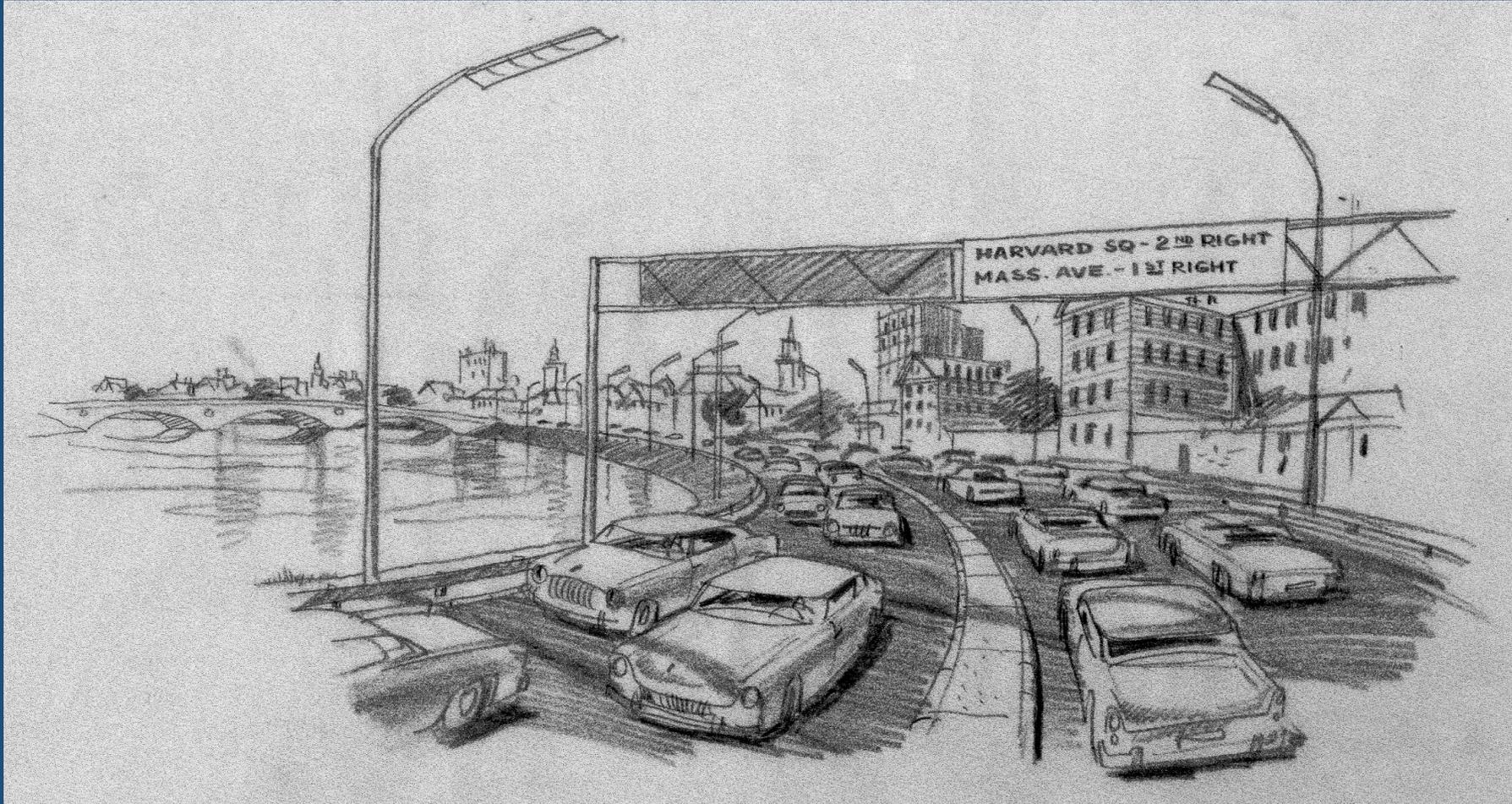
Provocation: Highway Planning in the Postwar Era



ROUTES OF THE METROPOLITAN HIGHWAY PLAN passing through Cambridge - part of a master plan for the whole metropolitan area prepared in 1948 by a joint committee representing the State Planning Board, the State Department of Public Works, and the Metropolitan District Commission. The Cambridge Planning Board collaborated on local needs. The Concord Pike Extension and the Industrial Truck Route are badly needed to relieve present-day traffic jams. The Belt Expressway and the Northwest Expressway need further study in terms of location and effect upon Cambridge.

19

Memorial Drive Expansion, 1962-66



Sketches illustrating the effect of the proposed widening prepared by the Citizens Emergency Committee to Save Memorial Drive received national attention when they were published in *Time* magazine in February 1964



M.D.C. police break up a Save the Sycamores demonstration, May 9, 1964



Inner Belt march on City Hall, February 26, 1966

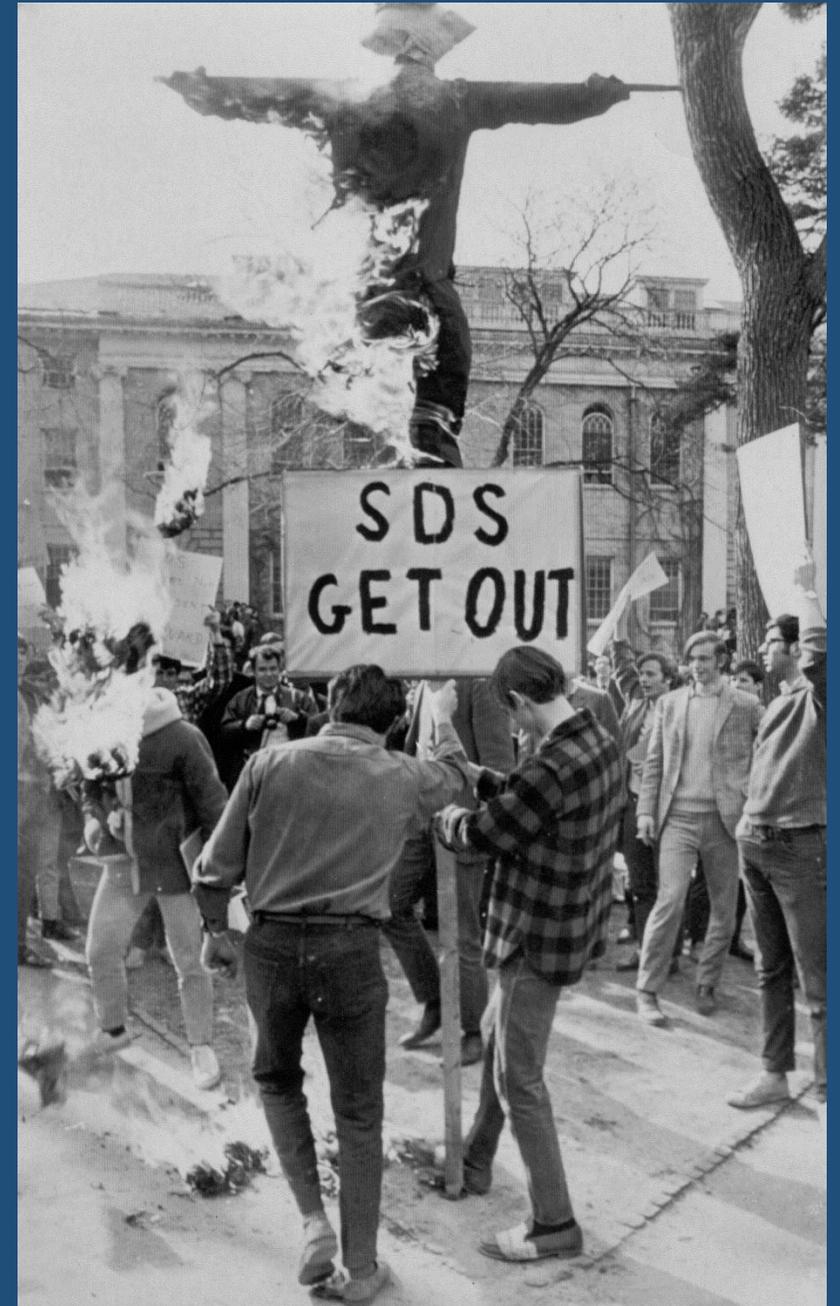
The Anti-War Movement, 1965-73

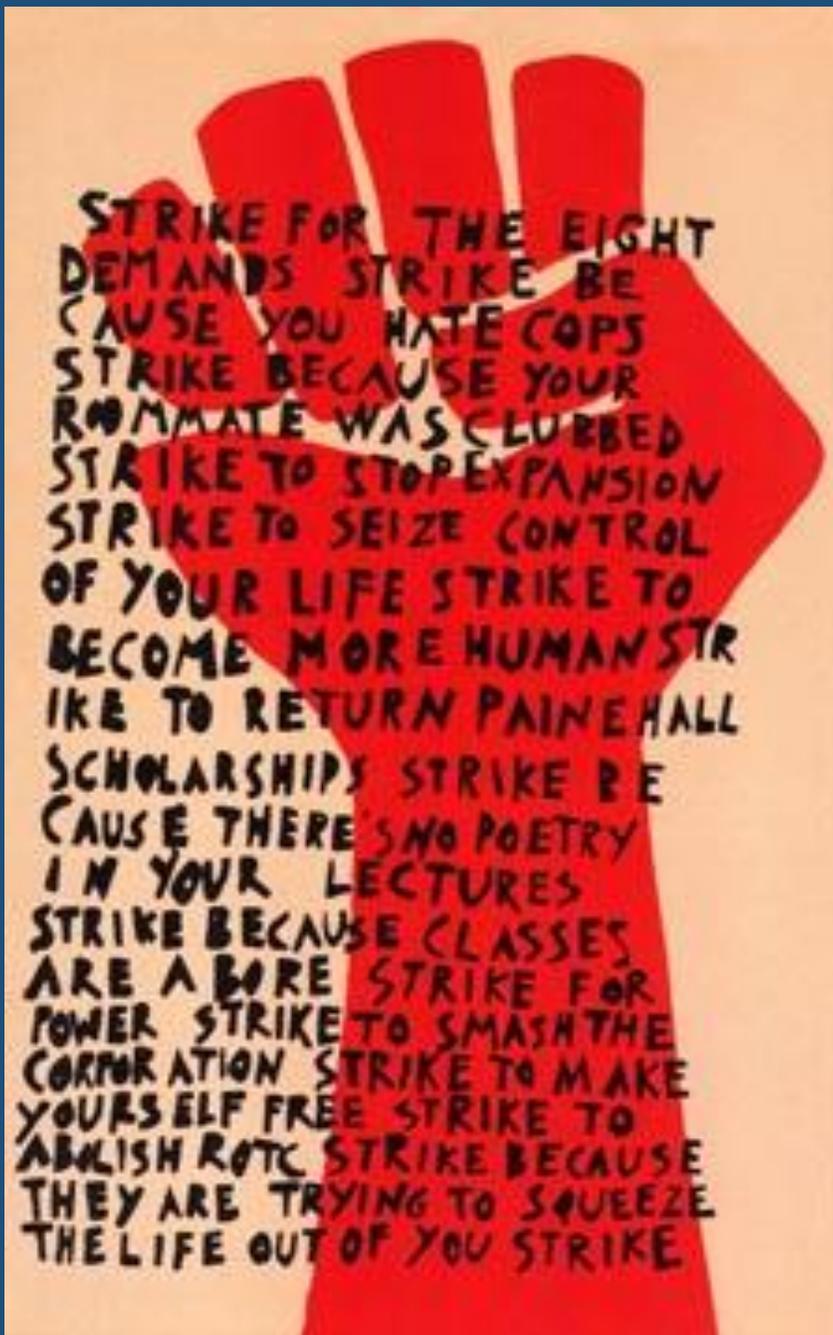


Police break up protest against war research at M.I.T., 1969

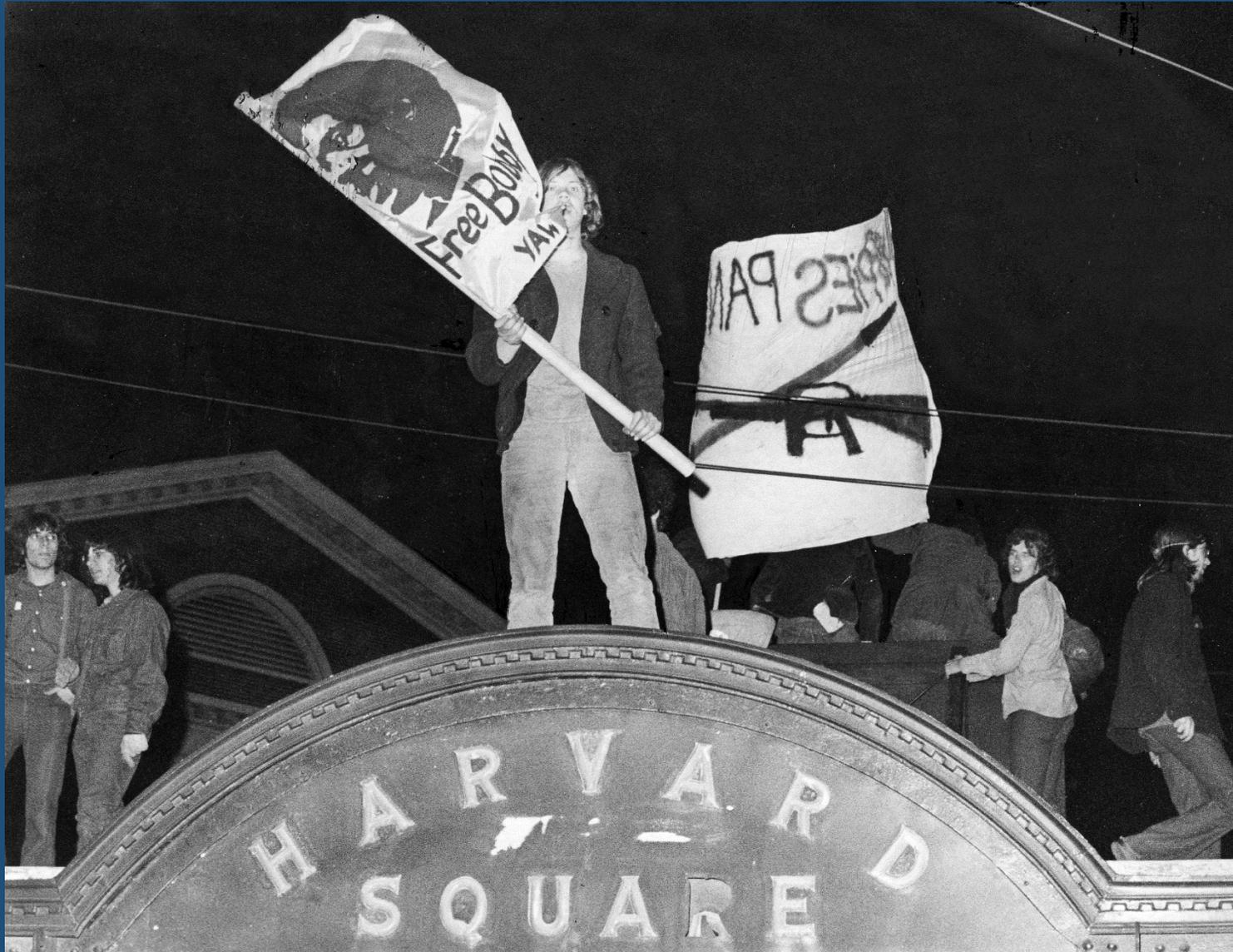


Occupation of University Hall, April 1969





Fist poster, produced during the 1969 Harvard student strike, originated with a design by School of Design architecture student Harvey Hacker.



The 1969–70 academic year was marked by repeated violence. On April 15, 1970, antiwar protestors rioted in Harvard Square, setting fires and trashing storefronts despite a massive police presence.

6000 Pour Into City, 1000 Police Called

Marchers Riot in Cambridge

*Violence Followed Rally
Of 50,000 in Boston*

*2000 National Guard
Ordered to Stand By*

*Several Hundred Injured,
Aid Given at Churches*

By EARL MARCHAND and TOM SEWELL
HT Staff Reporters

Helmeted state and local police battled 6,000 anti-war demonstrators engaging in an orgy of window breaking and setting of fires in the Harvard square area of Cambridge last night.

The rioters, a large number of them students, went wild after returning from a peaceful and orderly "Silent Spring" rally on the Boston Common attended by an estimated 50,000 people.

Several hundred rioters and several policemen and bystanders were treated at the scene or in hospitals for irritation from tear gas, and for cuts and bruises and possible broken bones. First aid stations were set up in churches.

At one time, approximately 2,000 National Guardsmen were mobilized in the Greater Boston area awaiting orders.

More than 1,000 Cambridge, Somerville, Newton, Boston and state police moved into the area soon after 7 p.m., when conditions, as one police official said, "went completely out of control."

Soon after 9 p.m., police began lobbing tear gas canisters into Harvard University yard and in areas of Harvard square in an

attempt to restore order. Fires broke out in stores and in at least one bank.

"It's a nightmare scene, everything's gone crazy," said a city official.

A gasoline bomb hurled into the new

(Continued on Page Three)

'Utter Chaos ... a Disgrace'

By BILL McCAFFREY
HT Staff Reporter

"If this is a demonstration for peace it's an utter disgrace."

An embattled Cambridge City Manager James J. Sullivan spoke those words as

Reds Kill 22 Yanks in Viet

1970 Traveler Wire Service
SGON — Two enemy actions, one of them three miles from the Cambodian border, killed 22 Americans and wounded 52, the U.S. Command reported yesterday.

Enemy losses were not known, the command said.

One of the attacks last night was against an artillery base called Atkinson, 75 miles northeast of Saigon in War Zone C, three miles from the Cambodian border. Eight Americans from the U.S. 1st Air Cavalry Division were killed and 20 wounded.

North Vietnamese gunners riddled more



Antiwar riots and marches between Harvard Square and Boston in 1970 drew national attention. *Boston Herald, April 18, 1970*

Action against free expression



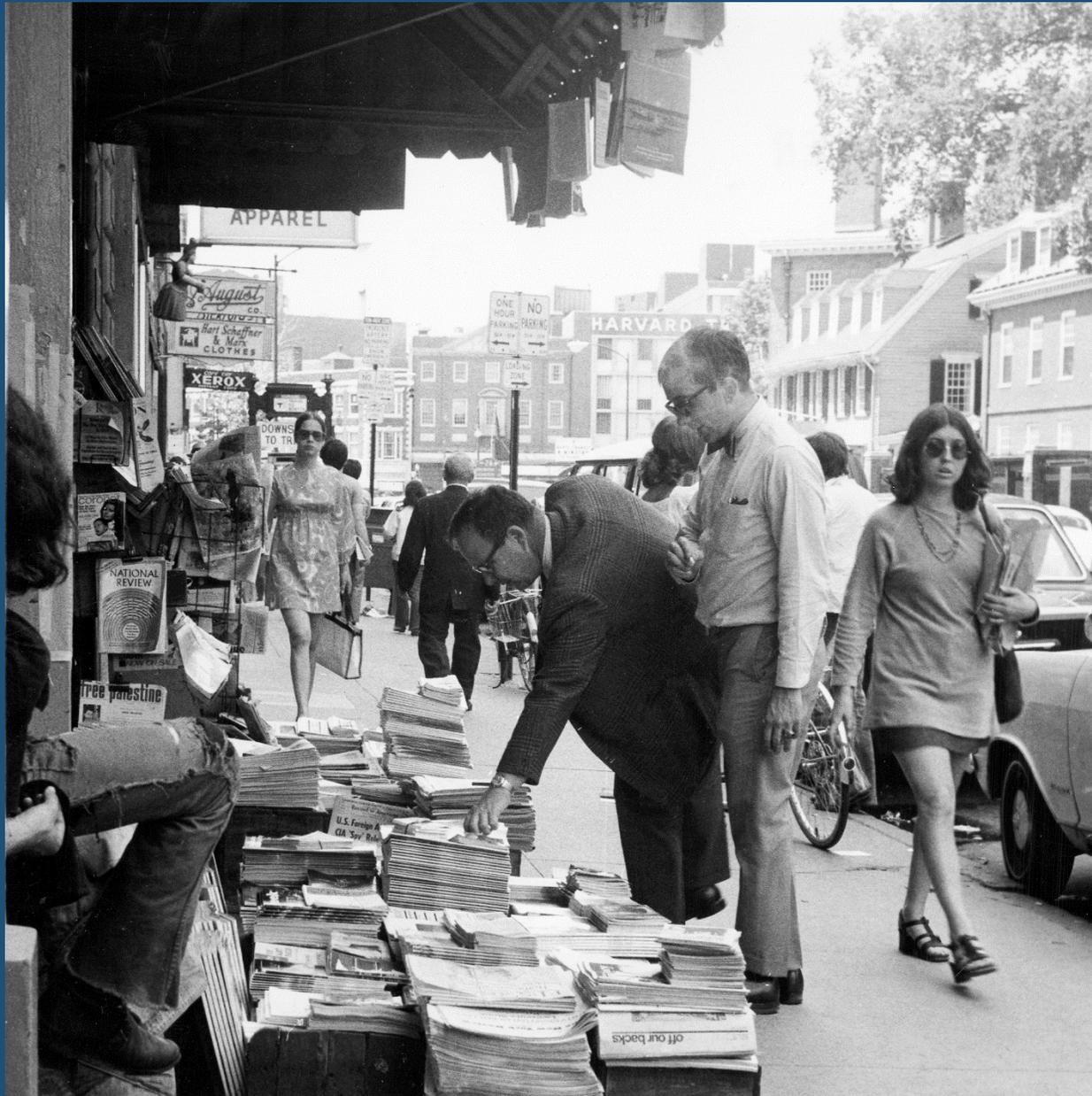
Hayes Bickford's was a regional chain of inexpensive cafeterias. The 24/7 Harvard Square outlet was an informal headquarters of student radicals until 1967, when the landlord forced it to close between 4:00 and 5:00 a.m. Photo ca. 1962.



Action against free expression

“Eighteen persons arrested last month while peddling *Avatar*--five Harvard students among them--were convicted in East Cambridge Court yesterday of selling obscene literature.”

The Harvard Crimson, March 1, 1968



Action against free expression

Felix's Newsstand at 1304 Massachusetts Avenue was evicted in 1970 "because of unhappiness with some of the books and magazines" it sold (*Crimson*, 6/11/1970). Felix Caragianes had been arrested in 1926 by agents of Boston's Watch & Ward Society for selling copies of H.L. Mencken's allegedly obscene literary magazine, *The American Mercury*; Mencken himself came to Boston to be arrested on the same charge but was acquitted. Felix's nephew Angelo was arrested twice in the 1960s for similar reasons. Photo September 20, 1970.

Occupation of Harvard Commencement, 1970



On June 11, 1970, community members led by future city councillor Sandra Graham (with bullhorn) invaded Harvard's 319th commencement to protest the university's intrusion into the Riverside neighborhood.



March 1971: Women of the Bread & Roses collective occupy a Harvard Building at 888 Memorial Drive

Mayor Alfred Vellucci is being refused admission.



Commencement 1971:
Radcliffe women protest

(BX15)CAMBRIDGE, MASS., APRIL 18--SEAL OFF HARVARD SQUARE--A cordon of riot clad police officers lined up across street sealing off Harvard Square Tuesday night in Cambridge, after antiwar protestors entered the Harvard Center for International Affairs, smashing windows and generally wrecking the two-story building. A curfew was declared for the area until 5 a.m. Wednesday. (wirephoto)(jdk32210h-t)72



April 18, 1972: Antiwar protesters burn files at Harvard's Center for International Affairs

Peace Agreement Signed, January 27, 1973



The caption of this postcard reads, "This is our scene. ... Try to get in it."

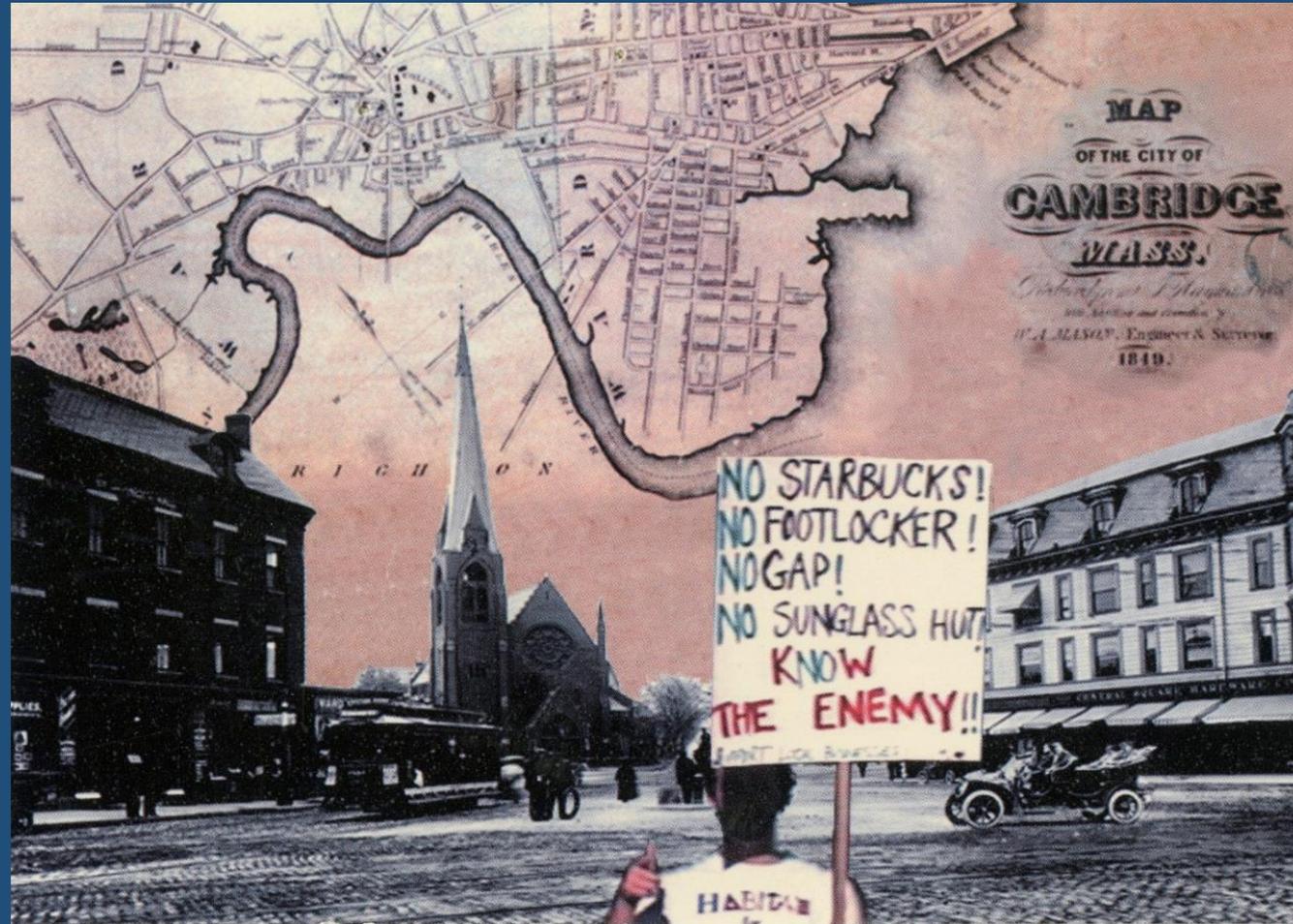
John F. Kennedy Presidential Library conflict, 1965-76



I.M. Pei's 1973 plan for the Kennedy Library included Harvard's Institute of Politics and School of Government in the same complex as the museum and the presidential library. Community members were terrified that the six million annual visitors to Kennedy's gravesite would overwhelm Harvard Square.



Tent City demonstration against M.I.T., November 1, 1987



Holmes Block protest, 1997



The Tasty, ca. 1997

THE
REBELLIA D;
OR
TERRIBLE TRANSACTIONS
AT THE SEAT OF THE MUSES;
A POEM,
IN FOUR CANTOS,
AUCTORE ENGINEÆ SOCIETATIS POETA.

EDITED AND PATRONISED BY THE PI TAU.

By
Augustus Peirce,

BOSTON:
1842.

The Rebelliad, commemorating the food riots of 1819

PROLOGUE.

OH! IN HARVARD!

PARODY ON HOENLINDEN.

I.

At Harvard, when the sun was low,
All bustling was the kitchen's glow,
And hot as tophet, was the flow
Of coffee, boiling rapidly.

II.

But Harvard saw another sight
When the bell rang at fall of night,
Commanding every appetite
To snatch a supper hastily.

III.

By mess and table fast arrayed,
Each Freshman drew his eating blade,
And furious every jaw-bone played,
Devouring Cooley's cookery.

IV.

Then shook the Halls with racket riven,
Then rushed each Soph to battle driven,
And louder than the bolts of heaven,
Round smashed the brittle crockery.

When Nathan threw a piece of bread,
And hit Abijah on the head.
The wrathful Freshmen, in a trice,
Sent back another bigger slice ;
Which, being butter'd pretty well,
Made greasy work where'er it fell.

And thus arose a fearful battle ;
The coffee-cups and saucers rattle ;
The bread-bowls fly at woful rate,
And break many a learned pate.

On either side the boldest close,
And kick and cuff with furious blows ;
While others, fearful of their bones,
Slink out of sight and fight with stones,
Although they now and then appear,
And rave heroic, curse and swear ;
But, when the danger comes, quick flee
Behind a neighb'ring wall or tree ;