



Princeton Class of 1975 Flashback



The news from 50 years ago ... December 1974!

Because We Love Quizzes (answers at end)

- An advertisement in *The Daily Princetonian* announced that five horror movies would be shown during Reading Period “designed to take your mind off the real horrors.” Name at least one of the movies (hint: four were from the 1930s and one from the late 60s).
- Name the political figure who rose to national prominence in December 1974, but also: withdrew his application from Princeton’s Class of 1930 but became an honorary member of the Class of 1938 (hints: one of his brothers provided a key donation to help institute coeducation; Spelman Halls is named for their grandmother).

U.S. and World News




The United Nations General Assembly designated 1975 as International Women’s Year.





On Dec. 8, Greece voted to eliminate the monarchy and maintain its government as a presidential republic.




North Vietnam launched the Spring Offensive against the South Vietnamese Army on Dec. 13. Last year, President Biden and Vietnam’s Communist Party leaders hailed a “historic new phase of bilateral cooperation and friendship.” (<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2023/09/11/joint-leaders-statement-elevating-united-states-vietnam-relations-to-a-comprehensive-strategic-partnership/>)

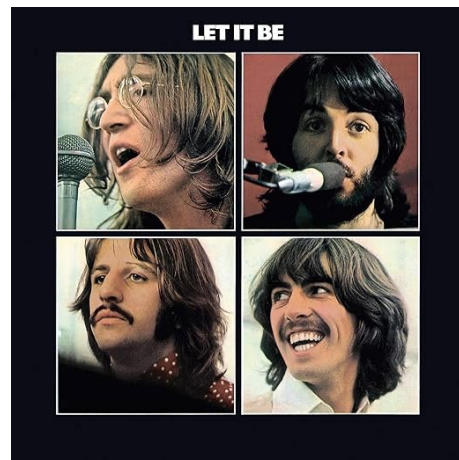
 On Dec. 19, Nelson Rockefeller was sworn in as the 41st Vice President of the United States—a position that had been vacant since Gerald Ford assumed the presidency on August 9th.

 The Safe Drinking Water Act was signed into law, setting standards for drinking water quality for all public drinking water sources.

 President Ford signed into law “The Presidential Recording and Preservation Act,” placing Richard Nixon’s presidential material in the custody of the National Archives.

 In Atlanta on Dec. 12, Jimmy Carter announced his candidacy for the Democratic nomination for president. Carter turned 100 on Oct. 1, 2024.

 The contractual partnership of the Beatles was dissolved. *Let It Be* was the 12th and final album the group released.



 Jacqueline Hansen set her first world record in the Western Hemisphere Marathon in Culver City, CA. on Dec. 1, completing it in 2 hours, 43 min., 54 seconds. She went on to successfully lobby the International Olympics Committee to add women’s events for the marathon and the 5000 and 10,000 meters events.

 The University of Connecticut women’s basketball team played its first varsity game on Dec. 5, beating Eastern Connecticut State 40-27; the team went on to win a record 11 NCAA Division 1 National Championships.

On the Screen

- “The Man with the Golden Gun” starring Roger Moore as James Bond (the third person to play the part) was released on Dec. 18.
- “The Towering Inferno” starring Steve McQueen and Paul Newman was released earlier in the month.

- “Godfather, Part II” premiered on Dec. 12 and won the Academy Award for best movie in 1975. Francis Ford Coppola directed, and Al Pacino and Robert DeNiro starred.

On the Campus



[Captain Janet Youngholm '75 scored 11 points](#) to lead the Tigers to capture the first Ivy League women’s basketball tournament. [Youngholm previously praised the team’s new strategy](#) of man-on-man defense. “It keeps your attention on positioning and the game more than the zone.”



In his first marathon AAU race, [Rob Bunnell '75 took 4th](#) place with a time of 2 hours, 26 min. William Johanson '75 came in 45th place, with a time of 2 hours, 48 min.



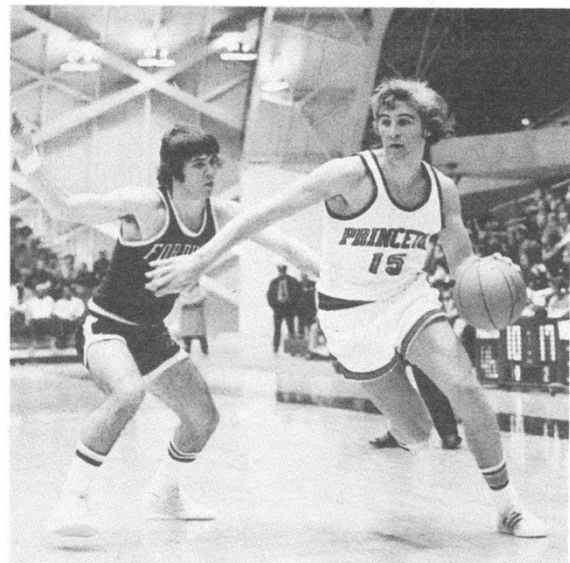
Led by captain Denis Underkoffler '76, [the varsity wrestlers avenged](#) their '73 loss to Rutgers with a 24-12 win.



[An article by Mike Molyneux '76](#) described the men’s basketball team’s 70-47 win over Fordham during the season’s opener, with reserve guards Pete Malloy '75 and Tim vanBlommestyen '75, forward Brien O’Neill '75, center Jim Flores '75 and starting guard Michael Steuerer '76 playing key roles.



[The late running back Walt Snickenberger '75 was named Ivy Player of the Year](#) based on “sportsmanship, leadership, competitive spirit, contribution to the team and accomplishments on the field.” Tom Schalch '75, the Tigers captain, joined Snickenberger in being selected for the all-Ivy first team by the AP sports writers.




Andrew C. Lay—Princetonian
STEUERER, WITH EASE—Tiger guard Mickey Steuerer displayed polished ballhandling and drove for two baskets and eight total points.




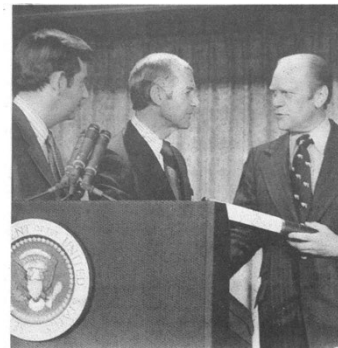
[The Ivy League Presidents Group](#) voted to allow each Ivy school to determine freshmen eligibility for lacrosse, soccer, and baseball, but overwhelmingly voted against freshmen eligibility for football.




[Frank Ayala, a graduate student at Columbia University](#), announced that he had accepted the position as assistant dean of students. His experience working with minority students was one of the qualities emphasized by the two advisory committees to the Dean. A student member of the advisory committee reported that “he was “the first choice of just about everybody.”


 [Debate on the calendar](#), including timing of final exams and the length of mid-term break, dominated early December. The late Quentin Easter '75, UGA president, led an effort urging the faculty to support the students' strong preference for exams before Christmas but the faculty voted down the proposal. Forty four years later, the faculty endorsed a calendar with exams before Christmas.


 [In the nation's service](#): Princeton President Bowen and WWS (now SPIA) Dean Donald Stokes '51 traveled to Washington DC [to participate in the Rockefeller Public Service Awards](#), given to public servants and administered by the WWS. They assisted President Gerald Ford in presenting the awards, which John D. Rockefeller 3rd '29 initiated at a time "when Joe McCarthy was having dismaying effects on public service."




Bob Ruxin—Princetonian
SERVICE AWARD—President Ford presents Rockefeller Award to
NASA official George M. Low as President Bowen looks on.

 [Adopting a proposal by Aaron Harber '75, the Administration established the Student Compensation Board](#) to make recommendations to the Priorities Committee on student wages. And [the Residence Committee endorsed a proposal by Linda Purvis '75 to commit to providing housing in the upcoming year for all married couples in which both partners were Princeton undergraduates](#). Purvis vowed to continue efforts to allow housing where only one partner was a Princeton undergraduate.

 *The Daily Princetonian* [elected the late Bob Ruxin '76 as Chairman and Judy Piper '76 as the first woman Business Manager](#). The election session that chose Ruxin ran 1 1/2 hours.

 [Steven Freedman '76 reported on an announcement](#) from Provost Hackney that the university was facing a large budget deficit for fiscal 1976 that would require spending cuts affecting the "base operations of the university."

 The Princeton University Art Museum opened a [major exhibit of 19th and 20th century watercolors and sculptures](#) from the collection of the late Henry Pearlman. The exhibition included pieces by Cezanne, Degas, Van Gogh, Toulouse-Lautrec, Soutine, and Pissarro. "The core of the exhibit is perhaps the finest collection of Cezannes in private hands," said the museum's assistant director.



[Former Prime Minister Golda Meir visited campus](#) and participated in several events, including a speech to a crowd of 3000 in Dillon Gym. Her remarks during the events included a condemnation of the creation of a Palestinian state. “The creation of a Palestinian state would be the creation of a ‘Soviet satellite,’” she said. She asserted that Arafat “wants Palestine—no Israel.” [About 50 people demonstrated outside Dillon](#), including members of the Revolutionary Student Brigade’s Princeton’s chapter and Palestinians from Patterson, NJ. Meir was the first foreign dignitary and first woman to receive Whig Clio’s James Madison Award for Public Service. Reporting by Steve Dujack ’76 and Benjamin Engel ’77.



Meir stands firm...



...as protesters chant



The Provost’s office reported that blacks, Latinos, women and other minorities are [“proportionately” under-represented in administrative and teaching positions](#), and that the Affirmative Action Plan being submitted to the government would include “improved techniques for searching out qualified minority candidates.” Reporting by David Liemer ’76.

In Opinion



The leaders of student government (members of the Class of 75, Quentin Easter, Mary Miller and Michael Schewel) [took on the Concerned Alumni of Princeton’s assertion that there is a crime wave on campus](#) and that students can no longer walk on campus or feel safe. The student leaders wrote: “That simply is not the case. The campus is relatively safe... One of the basic strengths of this university is its sense of community, its open atmosphere, its relatively unencumbered rules of interaction.”



[Beth Bogart ’76 reviewed a biography](#) by John Nathan, professor of Japanese language and literature, of Yokio Mishima “considered by many to be the greatest Japanese writer of his generation” who “plunged a sword into his abdomen and ended his life as he had always dreamed.” Nathan was the first biographer with whom the family cooperated.



Scott Rafferty ’76 attended the “Conference on Democratic Party Organization and Policy” in Kansas City, MO. and [wrote that it was a “non-convention”](#) to ratify a new charter “which not many delegates cared about and fewer understood.”

In Your Free Time

- Amoz Oz, “On Being an Israeli Writer”
- Senator Edmund Muskie, “Politics and the Post Watergate Morality”
- John Doar, Former Special Counsel, House Judiciary Committee, “Reflections on Impeachment”
- Peretz Kidron, Israeli New Left Organization SIALT, “The Peace Movement in Israel”
- “Straw Dogs” starring Dustin Hoffman, \$1.00
- “Bob & Carol & Ted & Alice” starring Natalie Wood, Robert Culp, \$1.00
- “The Collection.” By Harold Pinter, Wilson College Theater
- “Midnight Cowboy,” the original, starring Dustin Hoffman, Jon Voight
- “Hello Dolly,” McCarter Theater; and
- THE WEENIE MAN IS NOW SELING HOT CHOCOLATE, COFFEE, AND TEA

Answers:

1. “The Mummy” (1932); “The Hunchback of Notre Dame” (1936); “Things to Come” (1931); “Dr. Jekyll & Mr. Hyde,” (1931); “Night of the Living Dead” (1968)

2. [Nelson Rockefeller](#), who became US Vice President on Dec. 19, 1974. His brother, Laurance Rockefeller '32, gave \$4 million in 1969 to help institute coeducation. Most of the gift was used to build Spelman Halls, which is named for Laura Spelman Rockefeller, grandmother of Nelson and Laurance.

**Don't wait to book reservations for Reunions
2025.**

See you at our 50th on May 22 to 25, 2025!

