






Princeton Class of 1975 Flashback


The news from 50 years ago ... February 1975!


U.S. and World News


 The Council of the European Community adopted an Equal Pay Directive, requiring member states to provide equal pay for men and women.

 Margaret Thatcher, a research chemist and tax lawyer, was elected chair of the UK's Conservative Party, becoming the first woman to lead a major British political party. When the Conservative Party formed a government in 1979, Thatcher became the first female British Prime Minister.

 An all-white, mostly Roman Catholic jury convicted Dr. Kenneth Edelin, a Black doctor, of manslaughter for an abortion performed in 1973, after the Supreme Court decided *Roe v. Wade*. The Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court subsequently overturned the conviction and ordered that Dr. Edelin be formally acquitted.

 The states of Georgia and Utah voted against ratifying the proposed Equal Rights Amendment.

 President Nixon's former aides Attorney General John Mitchell, Chief of Staff H.R. Haldeman, and presidential adviser John Ehrlichman were each sentenced to a minimum of 2½ years in prison.

 The *Wall Street Journal* warned that the Social Security system was "on its way to going broke" as payments out were exceeding income.



Top Billboard songs included Neil Sedaka's "Laughter in the Rain" and Linda Ronstadt's "You're No Good."

On Campus

News



Princeton Economics Professor Albert Rees was [named Provost](#), starting after completing his service as Chair of President Ford's Council on Wage and Price Stability and succeeding current Provost Sheldon Hackney, who was to become President of Tulane University.



Commons opened a vegetarian dining hall for lunch and dinner (also serving grease-free fish and poultry) on a trial basis. **John Eakes '75** was the student Commons manager responsible for the [new dining option](#).



- Two student peer counseling services were established.
- The infirmary's Sexuality, Education, Counseling, and Health program launched an [anonymous hotline](#) and drop-in service, staffed by trained student volunteers, to provide information to students who might be embarrassed to make an infirmary appointment. The volunteers' training covered topics such as contraception, venereal disease, and abortion.
 - A broader Person to Person service, sponsored by the Wesley-Westminster Foundations and available round-the-clock, [invited students to raise any issue of concern](#). Marsha Rosenthal '76, one of the program's promoters, explained that the service was designed to address "the growing trend on campus toward anxiety and more and more isolation."



The [Third World Center](#) held a Conference on Third World Unity to coincide with the opening of the Center's new Annex, featuring a large multi-purpose room for films, speakers, dinners, and other functions, as well as a small recreation room in the basement. The opening ceremony included talks by President Bowen, Assistant Provost Conrad Snowden, Edgar Rois '74, and **Yvette Bridges '75**.



The Princeton University Library Assistants' Association voted to request the National Labor Relations Board to sponsor a [referendum to force the University to recognize the Association as a legal bargaining unit](#).



Jo Backer '75, Henry Handler '75, and Alexander Ward '75 jointly received the [M. Taylor Pyne Prize](#), the highest honor bestowed by the university on undergraduates who "most clearly manifested excellent scholarship and effective support of the best interests of Princeton University."



John Doar '44, special counsel to the House Judiciary Committee for the President Nixon impeachment proceedings, received the [Woodrow Wilson Award](#), the highest honor bestowed by the university on an alumnus. William O. Baker GS '39, president of Bell Telephone Laboratories and a charter university trustee, was awarded the James Madison Medal, the highest recognition awarded to a graduate alumnus (and named for the university's first graduate student).



[Princeton's mathematics team shone at the Putnam competition](#), perhaps the country's most prestigious math contest. Karl Rubin '76 placed among the top five individuals (who are not otherwise ranked within that group) and the team (Rubin, **James Lyon '75**, and Roger Schlafly '76) finished sixth out of the approximately 300 teams in the competition. Eric Lander '78 placed second among Princeton's contestants; other high-ranking Princeton students included **Jonathan Arnon '75**, Robert Anderson '77, and Lyon.



[Paul Volcker Jr. '49](#), senior fellow at the School of Public and International Affairs (then known as the Woodrow Wilson School) and former Undersecretary of the Treasury for Monetary Affairs, was named president of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York. Volcker subsequently served as Fed Chair from 1979-1987. He was the first Princeton alum to serve as Fed Chair; the second is **Jerome Powell '75**.



A study group authorized by the Trustees to explore the costs and benefits of [establishing a Princeton law school](#) convened a panel of law professors and attorneys to discuss potential innovative programs that might be offered, as well as challenges associated with starting a law school.



Shortly before announcing his intention to run for the Democratic presidential nomination, [Senator Lloyd Bentsen](#) spoke on economic and energy issues at Whig Hall.

Sports





The women's squash team won the [Howe Cup](#) for the third year in a row. Emily Goodfellow '76 played at the number one spot, and **CeCe Turner '75** served as captain. Other team members included: Nancy Carver '76; Ellen Harvey '76 (player manager); **Kathy Hirata '75**; **Mary Lowery '75**; and **Wendy Zaharko '75**.




The men's squash team completed an undefeated 10-0 season, winning the first [national squash championship](#) for Princeton in 18 years. In addition, the team's capture of the Ivy League title was the first time that Princeton won that title outright since the conference was formed in 1956. Captain **Dave Page '75** earned a letter sweater for captains of undefeated Princeton sports teams. Other members of the team included John Bottger '76, **Andre Brewster '75**, Tom Hewson '76, **Jeff Oakes '75**, Tom


Raleigh '76, **Hollis Russell '75**, Arif Sarfraz '76, **David Scamurra '75**, **Artie Schoen '75**, and Bill Wilson '76.


 The men's track team won their [fifth straight New Jersey Indoor Track Championship](#), and won the annual [Harvard-Yale-Princeton indoor track meet](#) for the first time in the meet's 23-year history.


 The wrestling team posted a 6-0 Ivy season and [won the Ivy League championship](#) for the fifth time in the past six years.


 Graduating football stars **Walter Snickenberger '75**, **Bob Harding '75**, **Tony Biagas '75**, and **Larry Cheshier '75** [signed free-agent contracts](#) with the New England Patriots.

Arts, Talks, Misc.

 Jazz musician [Herbie Hancock performed](#) at Dillon Gym in a fund-raising concert for the Campus Fund Drive, supporting the Student Volunteers Council and other charitable organizations. Ticket prices ranged from \$3.50 to \$5.50. The UGA, with key roles played by president **Quentin Easter '75** and treasurer Henry Massey '76, and McCarter Theater co-sponsored the concert.

 [Jimmy Carter](#), who had announced his candidacy for the Democratic Presidential nomination in December 1974, addressed "[America's Third Century](#)" in a talk sponsored by Whig-Clio, and also held a question-and-answer session at the Wilson School.

 The Pub, which opened February 14, 1973 – six weeks after New Jersey lowered the drinking age to 18, [celebrated its two-year anniversary](#) with dime beer and 60-cent pitchers. **Edward Akelman '75** and a friend initially brought the Pub concept to Dormitory and Food Services (DFS), and Akelman worked at the Pub since it was established. Nancy Seline '76 served as student coordinator for the Student Center and Pub at the time of the two-year anniversary celebration.

 In a talk at Whig Hall, Rev. [William Sloane Coffin, Jr. addressed global famine as a moral failure](#). "[W]e don't even think of food as a basic right. Sharing food isn't an obligation of charity, it's an obligation of justice." A prominent civil rights and anti-Vietnam War activist, Coffin was nearing the end of his 17-year stint as Chaplain of Yale University, one of many noteworthy positions in his varied career.

 The Gay Alliance of Princeton sponsored a Whig Hall talk by Dr. Bruce Voeller on [The Federal Gay Rights Bill](#).



Charlie Yeo '75 and Julia Haller '76 won a Cottage Club raffle for a [weekend trip to Puerto Rico](#), leaving for the airport directly from the Cottage party where Yeo's winning \$2 ticket was drawn.



Cornel West, then a philosophy graduate student at Princeton, wrote an opinion piece in The Daily Princetonian on "[Black existentialism and American culture](#)."



On-campus films included: Sleuth, featuring Sir Laurence Olivier and Michael Caine; Buck and the Preacher, featuring Sidney Poitier, Harry Belafonte, and Ruby Dee; Z; State of Siege; Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid; a Classics Film Festival, including Hamlet, Trojan Women, and Macbeth; The Guns of Navarone; and Blazing Saddles.



Off-campus films included: Murder on the Orient Express; Scenes From a Marriage; The Stepford Wives; Woman Under the Influence; and Lenny.

**Don't wait to book hotel reservations for
our 50th reunion May 22-25, 2025!**

Start your 50th Reunion planning here: <https://princeton75web.com/75classpage/>

'75! '75! '75!

