



## Princeton Class of 1975 Flashback

**The news from 50 years ago ... January 1975!**


### On the Lighter Side

Which two of the following news stories did NOT appear in the annual *Daily Princetonian* **joke issue** of January 17, 1975? (answer at end)


1. **University library assistants**, frustrated in recent attempts to form a union, yesterday **called a strike** set for 8 a.m. today, closing all university libraries and throwing exam schedules into disarray.
2. The varsity **wrestling team will face 18 opponents** during the 1975-76 season, with 15 of those contests on the road, associate athletic director Sam Howell announced yesterday.
3. **A senior was arrested** early Friday morning outside the University Store and charged with **breaking and entering and larceny**. The philosophy major allegedly had stacked up two color televisions, a stereo, a typewriter, a calculator and a guitar near the door when he noticed police arriving.
4. Many administrators and other campus leaders privately express the belief that **President Bowen was kidnapped** by agents of the Red Chinese ministry of the interior and replaced by a double during his month-long tour of the mainland.
5. **A fire in a dryer** in the basement of Princeton Inn early Friday morning sent billows of smoke up to the fourth floor and caused the evacuation of the entire main building....A number of curious students crowded into the basement but were quickly chased out by the fire chiefs....Many of the students, in high spirits after the excitement, turned on their stereos full volume when they returned to their rooms. "Everyone thinks of it as **one of the bigger parties of the year**," said resident adviser Jo R. Backer '75.


## U.S. and World News


 U.S. President Gerald R. Ford signed legislation making 55 miles per hour the maximum speed limit across the United States.


 *The Wiz*, a musical adaptation of *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* with an African-American cast, opened on Broadway on Jan. 5, 1975. It would go on to win two Tony Awards and run for 1,672 performances. *Wicked*, another Oz-inspired Broadway musical, written by Winnie Holzman '76, premiered on Broadway in October 2003 and won three Tony awards; it became Broadway's second highest grossing musical. A movie version was released in November 2024.



 Ernő Rubik, a professor of architecture in Budapest, applied to the patent office in Hungary for the invention known today as Rubik's Cube.


 Soyuz 17, with two Soviet cosmonauts onboard, lifted off and docked successfully with the Salyut 4 space station. The cosmonauts returned to Earth on February 7 after setting a new record for most days (28) spent in outer space. *Fifty years later, the International Space Station has a significant air leak originating from the Russian segment of the station. Since June, two U.S. astronauts have been stranded onboard because NASA deemed Boeing's Starliner capsule as too risky for a return flight.*

 Maharishi Mahesh Yogi, guru of the Transcendental Meditation movement, declared to thousands of his followers in Switzerland that the dawn of the new Age of Enlightenment had arrived.

 The National Hockey League became the first American sports league to allow women journalists into the players' locker room for interviews, a privilege formerly reserved for male reporters. The NBA followed suit later in the year. One of the two women making NHL history was Robin Herman '73 of *The New York Times*. *Herman was the first female sports editor at The Daily Princetonian.*

 In the first nationally televised women's basketball game in the United States, Immaculata University defeated the University of Maryland 80–48.

## On the Campus

 Three seniors won Rhodes scholarships to study at Oxford: Donald Collat '75, Joel Goldstein '75, and Mike McCaffery '75. *Update: Don, then a member of the University Council, became an investment banker; Joel, then chairman of the Daily Princetonian, became an oft-quoted scholar of the vice presidency and a professor of law at St. Louis University; Mike, then swim team co-captain, co-founded Makena Capital Management and served on Nvidia's board.* When women were later allowed to apply for Rhodes scholarships two years later, Sue Perles '75, a member of Princeton's first female field hockey team, became the first Princeton woman to win a Rhodes.



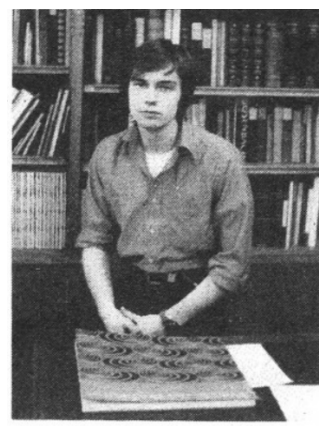
'Prince' chairman Goldstein




U-Council member Collat





Swim captain McCaffery





Bushner: 'Great deal'


 Daniel Bushner '75 was awarded the Sachs Scholarship, for two years of study at Oxford, which prepared him for a career in international law, mostly in London. At Princeton, he served on the University Council and focused on Russian studies.


 Provost Sheldon Hackney (and spouse of the late Lucy Hackney '75) announced he was leaving to become president of Tulane University. Student government leaders later protested a lack of student input in the selection of his successor as provost.

 Whig Clio advertised it would sponsor students to attend spring break meetings with Henry Kissinger, Hubert Humphrey, George McGovern, and Joseph Biden in Washington, D.C.

 President Ford signed a law that permitted universities to prevent students from viewing confidential recommendations in their files. This was quite controversial, although “only about a dozen” Princeton students had asked to access their files.

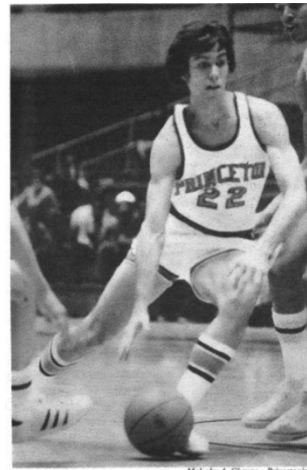
 [The ice hockey team defeated Harvard](#), the defending Ivy League champions. The Harvard coach was reported to be “shocked and dismayed.”

 NBC devoted 10 minutes to Princeton in [a documentary called “The Changing Role of Women and Men.”](#) “It was very unpolished in terms of documentary style,” said Lisa F. Lee '76, one of two Princeton students interviewed on the show, where she discussed a romantic breakup due to intensive competition in architecture.


 A newly formed [Student Pie-Throwing Agency](#) began filling contracts on “anyone from your roommate to President Bowen.” The outfit’s anonymous founder said its goal was “providing amusement during an otherwise ‘gruesome’ reading period.”




“You want I should prove pie are round?”



MOVING ‘VAN’—Senior Tim vanBlommesteyn turned half his 8 steals into layup baskets to pace Tiger cagers to 50-49 upset of Quakers.

 On Jan. 4, [Princeton’s basketball team opened its Ivy League season with a 50-49 win over Penn.](#) Guard Tim vanBlommesteyn '75 scored 8 of his 14 points by following turnovers with streaks to the hoop. “Tim has always been a pain in the rear,” said his coach, Pete Carril. “Sometimes for the other team, like today; sometimes for us.”

 [The basketball team defeated Temple 59-48](#) on Jan. 16 despite an exhausting study and exam season. “I went to bed about 9 a.m. this morning,” admitted guard Armond Hill (then) '76, who scored 10 points for the night. *Hill later played in the NBA with the Atlanta Hawks, returned to Princeton to finish his degree*

in 1985, and coached at Lawrenceville School and at Princeton, as well as at Columbia and three NBA teams.



The university predicted [a \\$1.7 million deficit for 1975-1976](#), which forced the Priorities Committee to consider “sharply curtailing or even dropping” entire academic programs and cuts to student services, faculty, and research. The main reason: huge spikes in the cost of oil, which caused the university’s energy bill to triple in two years. The 12% inflation rate in 1974 forced the university to raise tuition by 11% and room and board by 13.4%. *Today, the US inflation rate is 2.7%.*



[Dean Adele Simmons wrote a letter to parents of freshmen](#), who had received a “misleading” and “inaccurate” letter from Concerned Alumni of Princeton about a rise in crime on campus. Despite “isolated incidents,” she said the campus was “an unusually safe community.”



The ‘Prince’ revealed “lucrative” [salaries received by student agency managers](#), ranging from \$31 to \$1,400 (some divided among two or more managers). A few days later, Wayne Willcox ’75 wrote [an enraged letter to the editor](#) decrying the article as “sensationalist” and “a gross invasion of privacy.” He canceled his future advertisements in the ‘Prince.’



[Tiger halfback Walter Snickenberger ’75 got a chance to compete in an American Bowl Game](#) after four storied years of playing both football and ice hockey at Princeton. He had earned Ivy Player of the Year honors in fall 1974. “They were a lot bigger,” he said of the major league players. “And they hit a little harder.”




Students competed in [the annual nude Olympics in Holder courtyard](#) after the first snowfall. “Uniforms consisted of shoes, socks, and hats. The mercury stood at 15 degrees,” the ‘Prince’ reported.




New Jersey Governor Brendan T. Byrne ’49 (and father of Tom Byrne ’76) said he thought [President Bowen would make a good U.S. President](#) – as an illustration of what he considered a shortcoming in the presidential election process, which makes it impossible for qualified persons who are not well known to run.





OFFICIAL NOTICES - JOB INTERVIEWS—Feb. 5: Dupont, Midatlantic Bank, Phila. Nat'l. Bank; Feb. 6: J.T. Baker Chemical, Dupont, First Nat'l Bank of Chicago; Feb. 7: American Cyanamid, Morgan Guaranty Trust, Nat'l City Bank of Cleveland. Sign up at Career Svcs., Clio Hall. *How many of these employers still exist in 2025?*

 After a year of leading the Prince as chairman, Joel Goldstein '75 wrote in "[Parting Shots](#)" that, unlike the student activism of the Sixties, the news was now "less exciting." He confessed to being "too cautious at times, too careless at others" – and mourned the lack of student interest in the news. While highlighting important university news the 'Prince' had covered, he also quoted the words: "Is anybody there? Does anybody care?"

## In the Prince's Opinion

 In "[Most Valuable Student?](#)", the Prince editorial board called for the Pyne Prize to be divided among five to seven students, because prize money of \$3500 is "a lot of money for any one senior."

 In "[Pulling a Fast One](#)" on Jan. 8, the editorial board objected strongly to a decision by 100 faculty to change to a late-start, late finish calendar for the fall term. "They seemed just like a group of kids, daring to make another forbidden raid on a cookie jar, even though they knew it was wrong." Later, after many objections, the full faculty voted to overturn the decision.

 [Alan Tonelson '75 ended his regular column "Notes from Disneyland"](#) with the question: "how are we to view Princeton? As a distinguished center of higher education"? Or "a ship of fools... awash in beer and sherry and Hawaiian Punch Red, manned by a rather hapless and not very likable crew"? A few weeks earlier, [in a letter to the editor](#), John Kindre '75 suggested the 'Prince' should "throw that silly fool Tonelson out the window."

## In Your Free Time

*Okay, it was exam month, so you probably didn't have free time. But if you did, you could have enjoyed:*

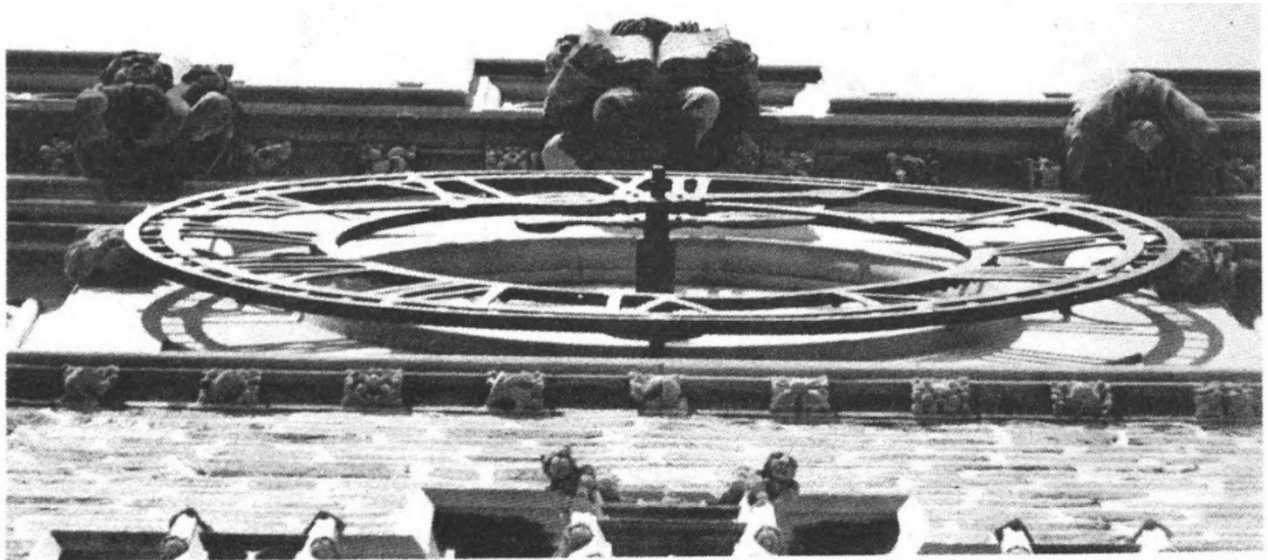
- "The Paper Chase – advertised as "The Discreet Charm of Harvard Law School"
- Marx Brothers in "Day at the Races"
- Scenes from a Marriage at the Playhouse
- "Murder on the Orient Express" at the Playhouse
- "Freebie and the Bean" at the Garden.
- "The Mother and the Whore" at McCarter

## On the Screen

- "The Count of Monte-Cristo," starring Richard Chamberlain
- "Be My Valentine, Charlie Brown," written by Charles M. Schulz.
- "The Wilby Conspiracy," starring Sidney Poitier and Michael Caine.

- “Vampyres,” about a duo of bisexual female vampires who prey on passing motorists, whom they seduce and murder in the English countryside. Okay, January has never been a great month for releasing new movies.

*Thanks for reading!*



*An interesting view of Nassau Hall, published on Jan. 24, 1975.*

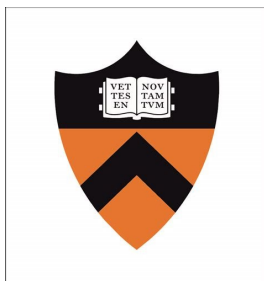
*Photo by David Steigman '75*

*Now for the Answers:*

**Answers to quiz:** Stories numbered 3 and 5 were *not* in [the joke issue dated January 17](#) - *but did* appear in [the issue dated January 13](#). Apparently they were true!

Although the newspaper's editorial page on January 17 clearly stated that this was the joke issue, designed to amuse (See "[Don't Blame Us!](#)"), a reporter from the [Harvard Crimson](#) called the 'Prince' office a week later, asking for information about the library strike. The joke was on them!

**Don't wait to book hotel reservations for  
our 50<sup>th</sup> reunion in May 2025!**



**Sing along at [spoti.fi/3Xd402G](https://open.spotify.com/playlist/3Xd402G)**

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

**'75! '75! '75!**

