



## Princeton Class of 1975 Flashback



### The news from 50 years ago ... November 1974!

#### U.S. and World News

South Africa's racist regime granted Indigenous residents limited self-government in QwaQwa, a homeland or Bantustan of 253 square miles for 180,000 members of the Sotho people. The Black homeland would exist until the end of apartheid 20 years later.

Chilean stockbroker William Beausire was kidnapped at the airport in Buenos Aires by Argentina's Federal Police. He was then turned over to the Chilean secret police, where he was allegedly tortured and killed. That made him one of thousands of "desaparecidos," who disappeared during the U.S.-supported presidency of Augusto Pinochet in Santiago.

A milestone was reached when the first patent application for recombinant DNA—genesplicing—was filed by inventors Stanley N. Cohen and Herbert W. Boyer. Princeton would soon construct a new building on William St. designed expressly for this type of research, which was considered controversial at the time.

On November 5, Democrats achieved a veto-proof majority in the House of Representatives and a filibuster-proof majority in the Senate in the first election after the resignation of Richard Nixon from the presidency.

Isabel Peron, president of Argentina famously later-mimicked in a Broadway musical, declared a “state of siege” in the South American country to deal with a spate of violence that had cost the lives of more than 100 Argentinians. The decree banned all public meetings and allowed for the arrest without warrant and indefinite detention of suspected terrorists.

The day after the election, President Gerald Ford’s Treasury Secretary, William E. Simon, facing a falling stock market, admitted publicly that the U.S. economy was in recession.

A federal judge in Ohio acquitted eight former National Guard members of violating the constitutional rights of expression and assembly of protesting students, four of whom were killed. Judge Frank J. Battisi said the government had failed to show the violence was intended to violate the students’ civil rights.

On November 11, three months of fighting in the Battle of Thuong Duc ended in Vietnam, with the communist forces of the North defeating the army of South Vietnam. It would be one of the last remaining dominoes that would lead to the fall of Saigon, capital of the South, the following spring, and to the end of the long war.

The UN General Assembly suspended the apartheid regime of South Africa from participation, a ban that lasted until the racist system was disbanded.

The Assembly then passed a resolution declaring "the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people in Palestine, including...the right to self-determination without external interference; the right to national independence and sovereignty [and] the inalienable right of the Palestinians to return to their homes and property from which they have been displaced and uprooted."




President Ford and Secretary of State Henry Kissinger arrived at a Soviet airbase in the country’s far east, where they were greeted by Leonid

Brezhnev, general secretary of the Communist Party, and Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko for a summit meeting to discuss arms control agreements. The next day they signed a joint communique declaring both countries would abide by an “agreed aggregate number of missiles,” with limits on delivery vehicles and independent warheads.

A month after his embarrassing episode in the Tidal Basin, House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Wilbur Mills (D-OH) appeared onstage with his mistress, Fanne Foxe, who was working as a stripper in a Boston venue known as The Pilgrim. He was reported to be intoxicated. Mills stepped down from the chairmanship a few days later.

## On the Campus

According to *The Daily Princetonian*, the month of November 1974 was fairly quiet on most matters affecting student life. Issues included implementation of the Buckley Amendment, which guaranteed students the right to review their confidential files. In addition, the university community was looking at a change to the academic schedule thus that, as with most colleges, [final exams would be held before Christmas break](#). And controversy, such as it was, raged over 8:40 a.m. as the start time for morning classes.

 In an article by David Liemer '76 and Bob Lack '77, who traveled to Langley, Virginia, CIA director William E. Colby '40 said that [morality has no role in American covert operations abroad](#). “Colby justifies CIA actions such as the recently



revealed intervention in Chile on grounds of national security. ‘I don't think we really need to talk about a moral right,’ he told *The Daily Princetonian* last Wednesday. ‘That's not what you discuss in international law. No country and no individual has a monopoly on morality.’ ‘In the world of today,’ he

added, 'each nation is sovereign and undertakes such actions it feels are necessary to maintain its independence and its strength.'"



In a sign of the language mores of the time, a *Prince* front-page headline in the same issue said, "[Bowen embarks on trip to Orient.](#)" President William G. Bowen GS58 would be one of the first American visitors to the People's Republic of China.




In addition to reporting on the national election totals on Wednesday, Nov. 6, the *Prince* covered the remarks in victory of [Millicent Fenwick](#), one of the few new members of Congress from the GOP and an



important local story. "The millionaire, who once served as New Jersey commissioner of consumer affairs, was assured of victory when she lost the usually liberal Princeton area by only 400 votes." Fenwick went on to a storied career in the Capitol and became the model for Doonesbury's Lacey Davenport.





Separately, in an article by Steve Dujack '76 and Lynn Chancer '78, the *Prince* reported, "More than a dozen Princeton students [were not allowed to vote](#) yesterday because of questions raised about their changes of address. Challenges to the students' voting rights were raised by Princeton Borough District One election officials," both of whom were Republican university seniors. The *Prince* quoted the area's top Democrat: "The Republicans are trying to make it as difficult as possible for students, who are mainly Democratic, to vote."


 The *Prince* continued its foray into national politics with its November 7 above-the-logo article, [“Policy dispute forced Sawhill to quit.”](#) The subject of Steven Freedman ‘76’s

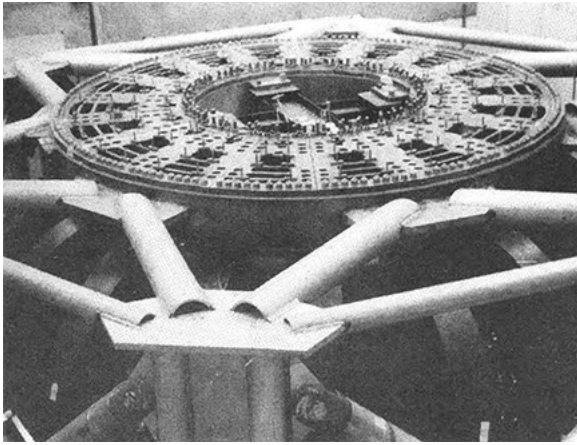


article was the forced resignation of John Sawhill ‘58. The former energy czar told the *Prince* what he had demurred on earlier with national journalists reporting on his ouster: “But in an interview with the Daily Princetonian Monday, Sawhill said basic disagreements in policy were the cause for his removal. . . . Sawhill placed his emphasis on reducing energy demand while the rest of the administration focused its attention on increasing supply to meet escalating demand.”


 Years before Stephen Hawking became famous for advancing the theory of black holes and publishing two best sellers on the topic, a half-page ad announced that John Wheeler, professor of physics and the person responsible for the phenomenon’s name, bestowed during his early research on the theory, was giving a lecture, “The Black Hole and Beyond,” in McCosh 10 on November 7.


 Whig-Clio announced in a more modest ad “An Evening With John Doar ‘44,” the iconic civil rights lawyer who played a key behind-the-scenes role as lead special counsel for the House Judiciary Committee’s impeachment hearings.


 The University announced a proposed quarter-billion-dollar fusion energy research facility, involving an expansion of the [Forrestal research campus](#)





and beginning of what was supposed to be a decades-long quest to produce electric power for human use. The TwoComponent Torus “will be the first device of its kind in the world attempting to demonstrate fusion using deuterium and tritium, two hydrogen isotopes, as a fuel,” the *Prince* reported.

 [“Faculty interest grows in Afro-American studies.”](#) was the headline on a front-page article the same day, using the then current term for the discipline.


 [“Why Do The Heathen Rage,”](#) read an ad inside the same issue, citing the “2nd Psalm and Acts 4:25.” This ad appeared from time to time, using other biblical verses.


 “Recent studies show that [cohabitation](#) on American college campuses is no longer an unusual lifestyle, according to an article in the November issue of *Psychology Today* magazine. . . . Surveys cited in the article indicate that the percentages of students cohabiting range from 9 per cent of those polled at a small midwestern school . . . to 33 per cent of 1,000 responding individuals at Pennsylvania State University.”


 [“Richard Nixon did not commit an impeachable offense.”](#) was the headline over an oped article by T. Harding Jones ‘72, founder of the Concerned Alumni of Princeton and the first editor of its magazine, *Prospect*. “Impeachment is needed, I believe, when a President is locking up political opponents, clearly neglecting his office, attempting to become a dictator, or when, according to recent standards for Presidents, he outrageously abuses his power.”


 [On top of a simmering story](#) that would persist for weeks, Dori Jones ‘76 wrote about the selection of a new assistant dean of student affairs drawn

from the Latino population. “Dean of Student Affairs Adele Simmons and representatives of student government and minority organizations finally agreed last night to a compromise arrangement for student participation. . . . ‘The incentive is to agree, because everyone will benefit from it,’ said Undergraduate Assembly president Quentin D. Easter '75, who helped arrange the compromise. ‘It's against our interest to be abusive, and it's against her interest to be abusive.’”

 On November 11, Jamie Hess '76 wrote how “[a coalition of black student groups](#) is calling for a boycott of classes Friday in memory of the two students killed at Southern University in Baton Rouge, La. two years ago. The boycott . . . [is] a nationwide attempt by black students to call attention to ‘the struggle against educational cutbacks and tuition raises, and the struggle against police repression and murder,’ according to an article in the Third World Center Newsletter.” Yvette A. Bridges '75 told the *Prince*, “Our focus is on black and Third World students, but anyone else is welcome to participate.”

 [In an oped datelined](#) in Washington, *Prince* assistant news editor Benjamin Engel '77 wrote, “Look at them and you wonder what's going on inside their heads. John D. Ehrlichman. H.R. Haldeman. John N. Mitchell. Bob Mardian and Ken Parkinson. . . . Now they sit ignominiously before the bar of judgment in the U.S. Court House in Washington, within sight of the Congress they scorned and the White House they regarded as a haven safe from the people's scrutiny. The Watergate cover-up trial is on.”

 In remarks at Whig Hall on November 13, “Professor of Near Eastern Studies Bernard Lewis attacked the United Nations recognition of [the Palestine Liberation Organization](#) (PLO) last night as ‘an unfortunate decision for the Palestinians and the U.N.’” [In a brief article](#), the *Prince* reported the next day, “Whig-Clio has extended a speaking invitation to Sadat Hassan, Palestinian Liberation Organization spokesman in North America, but has not yet received a formal acceptance.” Further, “Whig-Clio president Henry B. Handler '75 said he had discussed the invitation with Hillel and other ‘sensitive’ organizations and had received criticism from some of their members.”

 “Walter Heitmann, the Chilean Ambassador to the United States, will speak at 4 p.m. Monday in McCosh 10,” is the entire text of an announcement that fueled demonstrations surrounding the appearance of the representative of the repressive U.S.-backed Santiago junta that overturned a free election and deprived Chileans of many rights. The

November 19 *Prince* then reported on [the Chilean ambassador's speech](#) and the noisy crowd who greeted him.



Dori Jones '76 spoke of welcome happy sports news and a significant milestone in a November 19 article "[Field hockey tops Yale](#), retains title." Dori described how "the women's field hockey



team cleared the last hurdle to its third straight Big Three championship and its first undefeated season. The 3-1 victory topped off an unbeaten 9-0-2 season for the Tigers, marking the first time a Princeton women's team sport has completed its schedule without a single defeat." Inner Emily Goodfellow '76 "scored all three Princeton goals," stalwart Cece Turner '75 performed at wing, and captain Louise Gengler '75 said, "We definitely had the jump on them."



"Former acting FBI director William D. Ruckelshaus '55 said last night that when he left that post in July 1973, he concluded that then-President Richard M. Nixon was involved in the [Watergate coverup](#)," wrote Chester Spatt '75 and Kerry Doyle '78 covering a Whig-Clio dinner in the November 21 *Prince*.



"There will not be a Middle East without a sovereign state of Israel in its heart," former Israeli Foreign [Minister Abba Eban](#) told a standing-room-only crowd of some 500 persons Friday in McCosh 10. Speaking on "The Post-October War Order in the Middle East: Prospects for Peace," the former diplomat made a case for continued Israeli nationhood. David Ettinger '76 and Nicholas Ulanov '78 reported the story.



"Arguing that 'we should no longer try to eliminate recreational drug use, [marijuana decriminalization](#) advocate R. Keith Stroup called Friday for lower penalties for users of 'pot,'" wrote the *Prince's* Benjamin Engel '77.



"[Tigers stampede to .500 year](#)" was the headline for a Tom Monahan '76 article on the football team's final game, a 41-20 pasting of Cornell. "We should be in the thick of it next year," said a "jubilant" coach Bob Casciola



'58. Running back Walt Snickenberger '75 “finished his collegiate football career with a 1,041-yard season which lifted his career total to 2,242 yards. Both marks place him second in the Tiger record book,” according to the *Prince*.

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Just 233 days until our 50th! Three Cheers!**

