



Princeton Class of 1975 Flashback



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



In the USA:



President Gerald Ford launched his "Whip Inflation Now" (WIN) campaign to reduce the federal deficit by cutting spending and raising income taxes for corporations and wealthy individuals by five percent. The "WIN" campaign encouraged Americans to save money by reducing personal spending. "WIN" buttons were offered to anyone who signed and mailed back a pledge that said, "Dear President Ford: I enlist as an inflation fighter and Energy Saver for the duration. I will do the very best I can for America."



In an appearance before a House Judiciary subcommittee, Ford became the first incumbent President since Woodrow Wilson (and, as of 2024, the last) to testify in a Congressional hearing. Ford testified that his pardon of former President Richard Nixon had not been prearranged, and said he made the decision because of reports of Nixon's deteriorating mental and physical health.



President Ford signed an amendment to the Federal Election Campaign Act creating a six-member Federal Election Commission.



Two key civil rights measures were signed into law: the Equal Credit Opportunity Act, which prohibited discrimination based on race and gender, and the Fair Credit Billing Act, which protected consumers from unfair billing practices and gave them remedies for fixing problems.



Early in the morning of October 26th, Puerto Rican separatists set off five bombs in Manhattan including one in New York's Financial District. Despite the damage, there were no injuries. The next day, 20,000 people rallied at Madison Square Garden to support Puerto Rican independence. Among the speakers were Angela Davis, Jane Fonda and Juan Mari Brás, secretary-general of the Puerto Rican Socialist Party. Brás said he didn't know who was responsible for the bombings, but added, "I do not condemn it.



The political career of Rep. Wilbur Mills, Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, ended after police pulled over a car carrying an intoxicated Mills and his mistress, Fanne Foxe. He resigned on December 1.



Dave Kunst, who claimed to be the first person to walk around the world, arrived home in Minnesota after trekking 8,930 miles. He left his home on June 20, 1970, with his brother John. The two were attacked by bandits in Afghanistan in 1972, where John was shot and killed.



Around the World:



Deng Xiaoping was named as the Primary Vice Premier of the People's Republic of China by Premier Zhou Enlai, with the approval of Communist Party Chairman Mao Zedong. Deng later became the paramount leader of the People's Republic.



The Provisional Irish Republican Army, known as the IRA, bombed two pubs in Surrey, England frequented by British Army personnel, killing five people and injuring 54. There were multiple bombings later in the month, including at two pubs in London.



The Labour party narrowly won the general election in the United Kingdom.



The United Nations General Assembly recognized the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) as the representative of the Palestinian people and granted it the right to participate in General Assembly deliberations on the question of Palestine in plenary meetings.



In Technology:



IBM introduced a computer accessory called the IBM 3850. It was the first use of compact cartridges for storage and could hold 50 megabytes on a 4" cartridge that contained 70 inches of magnetic tape.



In Sports:



The Cleveland Indians became the first team in Major League Baseball history to name a Black manager with the announcement that they hired Frank Robinson to guide the team in the 1975 season.



Future Baseball Hall of Fame right fielder Hank Aaron hit his final home run as a member of the Atlanta Braves in a 13-0 drubbing of the Cincinnati Reds. It was Aaron's 733rd career home run.



Muhammad Ali regained the world heavyweight boxing title, defeating George Foreman in the 8th round of a match in Zaire (now the Democratic Republic of the Congo) billed as "The Rumble in the Jungle." The fight was later called "arguably the greatest sporting event of the 20th century."



In Entertainment and the Arts:



One of the first popular crime horror films, "The Texas Chain Saw Massacre" premiered in theaters. The low-budget (\$140,000) movie grossed \$30,900,000 worldwide.



Frank Sinatra performed 11 songs at a Madison Square Garden concert which was televised (live or on tape delay) throughout the Western Hemisphere.



Jane Chastain became the first woman commentator on a nationally televised NFL game. She appeared on the CBS telecast of a game between New Orleans Saints and the Denver Broncos.



"The Wiz," a musical based on L. Frank Baum's children's book The Wonderful Wizard of Oz was retold in the context of 1970s Black culture and featured an all-Black cast. The show premiered at the Morris A. Mechanic Theatre in Baltimore.



The Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden was inaugurated in Washington, D.C., to display the art collection donated by Joseph Hirshhorn.

Meanwhile, at Princeton University ...



The Headlines:



INFLATION HITS HOME High inflation drove Provost Sheldon Hackney to warn all university departments to cut costs. Princetonian reporter Steven Freedman '76 quoted Hackney, chairman of the Priorities Committee, calling the situation "more serious now than at any time since 1970-71."



NUCLEAR FUSION Princeton's Plasma Physics Laboratory (PPL) looked at building a new nuclear fusion device called the Two-Component Torus or TCT. The reactor would fuse two hydrogen isotopes demonstrating "they will burn for a second," said PPL director Melvin Gottlieb. At a time of high gas prices, "fusion reactors have been viewed as a promising energy source," reported *The Princetonian*. The project had an estimated cost of \$215 million and could be completed by 1980.



COMPUTER CUTBACKS Deficit woes prompted the university to cut back computer usage. The machine [yes, it was just one!] was operating at capacity forcing "the university to turn away paying outside users," wrote Steven Freedman '76. One option: buy another computer! [Note: the photo caption read "Terminal Men," but women used the computers, too!]



COMMONS CUTS COSTS Dori Jones '76 reported Commons stopped serving meals in Lower Cloister on Friday and Saturday nights and considered eliminating weeknight dinners there. Alvin Thompson '75, Commons student coordinator, told *The Princetonian*, "We have to cut back in some ways without having people that work here get killed."



Broken Glass at Spelman: Just one year after they were built, I.M. Pei's award-winning and popular dorms showed signs of a flaw, either in design or installation, reported Steve Dujack '76. 14 of the 58 suites had cracks in the windows next to the patio doors. The repair cost could top \$4800. Residents weren't fazed. Judith H. Loebel '75 told *The Princetonian*, "I guess it's evidence of a poorly constructed building, but I love living here."



IN THE SHADOW OF THE ALMONACRES—Guyot Hall seismograph went haywire during Thursday's earthquake near Lima.

EARTHQUAKE Princeton's seismograph in Guyot Hall shook as an earthquake measuring 7.5 on the Richter scale hit Peru. An article written by Gary Duberstein '76 described a graduate student who noticed the recording pen had gone off the edge of the paper while he was setting up the machine. At first, the grad student thought the recording equipment failed, but within minutes, he realized it was a major quake. 20 people were killed outside Lima, and hundreds were injured.



PET POLICY New guidelines adopted unanimously by the Residence Committee called for registering pets, vaccinating them for rabies and keeping dogs on a leash. Failure to abide by the new rules could mean fines up to \$61. The new policy was in lieu of banning pets altogether from campus.



In Sports:



Football: Mike Stein '78 got his first chance to punt during a regular season game, wrote Tom Monahan '76 in *The Princetonian*. Stein's barefoot kicks helped the Tigers to victory over Rutgers. His ten kicks amounted to 370 yards including one boot of 53 yards. "Nobody ever taught me to punt," he said, adding, "I guess I'd wear a shoe if they had."



Tennis: At the Eastern Collegiate Athletic Conference tournament, Bill Dutton '76 grabbed the premier singles title. Tom Monahan '76 reported, "The Tigers claimed four of the six individual titles, as they swept the three singles categories and won the A division doubles tournament." Dutton said, "It was probably the biggest win of my life."



Sailing: Marilee Allan '75 and Nonnie Cooney '76 took first place at the Mid-Atlantic Women's Sailing Championship. It was the 5th year in a row for Tigers to win the top spot.



Volleyball: The newly formed women's volleyball team got club-varsity status giving them access to full financial support and allowing the team to apply for varsity status in 2 or 3 years. In their first game with club-varsity status, the team demolished Bryn Mawr, breaking that school's 4-game winning streak. Meanwhile, the men's volleyball team, just 2 years old, remained at club status.



The Speakers and the Interviews



[“Secrecy in an Open Society”](#) Edward Teller of University of California Berkeley and Lawrence Livermore Laboratory addressed a packed crowd in McCosh 10 under tight security. In *The Princetonian*, David Liemer '76 reported the Berkeley professor “attacked national secrecy in nuclear weapons technology and called for cooperation among nations, rather than arms control.” Teller contended, “The best weapon for a dictatorship is secrecy. The best weapon for a democracy is openness.”



[“A Jockocracy”](#) Florynce Kennedy, co-founder of the National Organization for Women and the Feminist Party, lambasted sexism at Princeton and elsewhere as “oppression.” Kennedy, an attorney, called Princeton’s spending “a jockocracy preoccupied with its balls.” The remedy, she suggested, was a “testicular approach” which would get to the oppressor’s “tender anatomical parts – most often its budget.”



[Racism and Revisionist History](#) Princeton’s Afro-American Studies Program invited Northwestern University professor Jan Carew to be a guest speaker on the roots of racism. Carew called for rewriting history to get rid of “old European” myths that called Blacks and others “savages and cannibals.” Carew who was from Guyana and of Black and Indian heritage said, “We must build a new image of ourselves.”



[“Justice was Done”](#) John Doar '44, special counsel to the House Judiciary Committee, told Steven Freedman '76 it was time to put Watergate behind us after President Nixon’s resignation. The charter trustee said, “We’re better off to turn our attention to some of the problems of the present and future rather than trying to fathom out all of this complex chain of events that was analogous to a criminal conspiracy.” Later in October, [Doar accepted a fellowship](#) at the Woodrow Wilson School (now Princeton School of Public and International Affairs).




[LONGING FOR THE “OLD NASSAU”](#) Following an interview with U.S. Ambassador to Switzerland Shelby Cullom Davis '30, Michael Zielenziger '77 reported that the controversial millionaire “seeks to end coeducation and to reinstitute the mandatory chapel attendance.” Davis, a financial backer for CAP or Concerned Alumni of Princeton, cited “a CAP-commissioned poll taken last year [that] indicated at least 60 percent of the alumni are unhappy” with the university’s policies. [On a personal note, I interviewed Davis for WPRB-FM when he came to campus. While I remember little of our conversation, I can’t forget that he began by telling me I didn’t belong at Princeton University.]



[William Ruckelshaus](#) spoke at a fundraiser for Republican candidates in Mercer County. One of the veterans of the 1973 Saturday Night Massacre, Ruckelshaus eschewed talk of Watergate, but did engage on environmental issues. Steve Dujack '76 reported Ruckelshaus told the audience, “We’re going to run out of oil someday” and encouraged “energy conservation.”



In the Opinion Columns


 ["To Make a Difference"](#) Joanne Csete '77 urged students to examine Princeton's extensive financial portfolio for "ethical investments" or not-so ethical ones. In a column, Csete wrote, "Maybe a Princeton which establishes itself as an outspoken watchdog in the investment world can at least nudge a few corporate mountains."


In a [follow-up story](#), Csete reported that the Resources Committee of the University Council listened to the views of several undergraduates about corporate responsibility. [Alan Zelicoff '75](#) worried about "questionable endeavors" in South Africa. [Vikas Saini '75](#) expressed concern over corporations in Chile which contribute to "a large capital inflow helping to stabilize the new regime."

 [COLLECTING PERSONAL INFORMATION?](#) [Ralph Bastedo '75](#), Assistant News Editor, penned a column objecting to the university collecting information about students' extracurricular activities that "will become a permanent part of [the students'] official file."




In Entertainment and the Arts:

 Bruce Springsteen performed at McCarter Theatre on October 12th at 7:30pm and 10:30pm. Tickets were \$3.50, \$4.50 and \$5.50.

 [ART EXHIBIT](#): Princeton's Art Museum marked the 100th anniversary of the Eads Bridge with an exhibit honoring the engineering feat. Director Peter Bunnell said that the bridge which spans the Mississippi River shows "how an object in a place becomes a symbol for the place (St. Louis) as well as an idea (the opening of the West)."

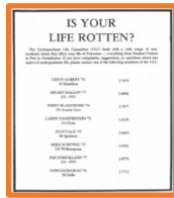
 **TOPPING THE MUSIC CHARTS** were:

1. "Nothing from Nothing" – Billy Preston (A&M)
2. "Can't Get Enough of Your Love, Babe" – Barry White (20th Century Fox)
3. "You Haven't Done Nothin'" – Stevie Wonder (Tamla)
4. "I Honestly Love You" – Olivia Newton-John (MCA)
5. "I Shot the Sheriff" – Eric Clapton (RSO)

 **BOX OFFICE HITS** included “The Longest Yard,” a prison sports comedy drama starring Burt Reynolds and Eddie Albert; “Cabaret,” a reissue of the 1972 musical drama directed by Bob Fosse starring Liza Minelli and Joel Grey; and “Airport 1975,” an air disaster film sequel to the 1970 film “Airport” starring Charlton Heston and Gloria Swanson in her final film role. “Chinatown” played at the Princeton Playhouse, and “King of Hearts” was at the Prince Twin Theater on Route 1.



Just for Fun:



IS YOUR LIFE ROTTEN? Call a member of the Undergraduate Life Committee ... such as **Larry Cooperstein '75** or **Mike Schewel '75** [Note: these phone number may not work anymore, try TigerNet instead!].



ATTENTION: SENIORS Thinking about what comes after graduation (or at retirement)? Check out the “Where Do I Go From Here” workshop at Career Services. [Note: some of these questions still apply 50 years later!]

 **Grab a flight home over the holidays.** Princeton Travel Service offered a fare of just \$201 to Los Angeles or San Francisco!

Don't wait to book reservations for Reunions 2025.

It's just 233 days until our 50th! Three Cheers!

