



Princeton Class of 1975 Flashback

**The news from 50 years ago ... May 1 through
June 10, 1975**

U.S. and World News



The last South Vietnamese soldiers fighting the North Vietnamese invasion surrendered on May 2 in the battle of Long Xuyen.



On May 4, the Houston Astro's Bob Watson scored major league baseball's one-millionth run of all time.



Michael Shaara's historical novel about the Civil War battle of Gettysburg, "The Killer Angels," received the Pulitzer Prize on May 5.



On May 6, a tornado destroyed much of Omaha, Nebraska, but only three people were killed.



Sony introduced its Betamax home videotaping system in Japan on May 10. The system sold for retail in the US for \$2,488.



Cambodian Forces seized the U.S. merchant ship Mayaguez and its crew on May 12. US forces raided the Cambodian Island of Koh Tang on May 15, only to find that the

crew had been released just as the military operation began. The U.S. forces encountered heavier than expected resistance and 41 service members were killed.



Apollo Energy Systems introduced the first full-sized luxury electric car, the Transformer 1, on May 15. The Transformer 1 was a modified two-door 1975 Chevrolet Chevelle powered by a 180-volt lead cobalt battery.



On May 19, the trial of IBM for violations of anti-trust law began. The trial lasted for more than six years. On January 8, 1982, the U.S. Justice Department would voluntarily drop further proceedings.



The new Khmer Rouge regime in Cambodia began its genocide campaign, a coordinated effort to purge private citizens associated by the new government as impediments to the revolution. Between 1975 and the 1978 invasion of Cambodia by North Vietnam, an estimated 1.3 million people would be executed out of a population of 7.8 million.



On May 27, the Alaska Supreme Court ruled, 5-0, that the right to possession and use of marijuana within one's home could not be outlawed, citing constitutional guarantees of privacy, making Alaska the first state to partially decriminalize cannabis.



The Isley Brothers released their single "Fight the Power" (Billboard Song of the Year, 1975) on May 31.



On June 1, President Ford arrived in Salzburg, Austria for a meeting with Egypt's President Anwar Sadat, and slipped and fell on the stairway while descending from Air Force One.



On June 3, the Department of Health, Education and Welfare sent new federal regulations, set to go into effect on July 21, to Congress. The new rules ended separate

physical education classes for young men and women and prohibited schools from excluding pregnant students from the classroom.



On June 5, the Suez Canal opened for the first time since the Six-Day War eight years earlier.

On Campus

News



On May 1, the new class [Presidents discussed their priorities](#) in the Daily Princetonian. James Ahstrom '76 hoped to encourage major companies to hold more and earlier on-campus job interviews in 1976. He also expected the current \$50 cap on class funds provided to students who held open parties to remain in place and wanted to encourage more group activities such as class trips to Blairstown as part of the Outdoor Action Program.



On May 2, [Richard Falk](#), the Milbank Professor of International Law and Practice, called the Vietnam War the “ugliest chapter in American history” in an op ed in the Daily Princetonian.



On May 3, the Daily Princetonian reported that [administrative staff cutbacks](#) for the next year may near fifteen percent.



On May 6, [departing Provost Sheldon Hackney](#) reviewed his years at Princeton in remarks at Whig Hall. Hackney left Princeton to become President of Tulane University where he served from 1975 to 1980. He then served as President of the University of Pennsylvania from 1981 to 1993 and was Chair of the National Endowment for the Humanities from 1993 to 1997.



The [faculty voted to keep mandatory laboratories](#) as part of the natural science requirement. “We can’t teach physics without a lab,” said Physics Professor, John A. Wheeler. “it would be like teaching students a language without having them speak it.”



Faculty members reviewed research papers prepared by the [Academic Research Group, Inc.](#) in Rutherford which had left a stack of advertisements on the cubbyholes in front of the U-Store. While the company said that the papers were good enough for Princeton and it had many customers at Princeton, one professor who reviewed a sample paper on “Feudalism in Medieval Europe (cost \$18) called it “extremely weak” and another said that he would be tempted to fail it. A third said that he would return it to be rewritten by the student.



On or about April 15, two high school students received [mistaken letters of admisison](#). Associate Director of Admissions Spencer J. Reynolds '61 said "Somebody must have just sat down with some folders and pulled the form letter off the wrong file." The University honored the letters but told one of the students that the student was viewed as academically unqualified and unable to handle the workload at Princeton. The other student was viewed as qualified.



Princeton submitted its [final Affirmative Action Plan](#) to the New York Regional Office of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare on May 13, the deadline for submission. The plan would remain in force for the next six years.



On May 18, Provost Sheldon Hackney said that the [budget deficit](#) for 1976 would be significantly lower than the \$1.7 million originally projected and somewhat below the \$1.5 million deficit for 1975.



On Friday night, May 16, [Princeton streakers](#) came out in force. Almost fifty naked males poured out of Blair Tower. The streakers included rugby and baseball players. They danced in the Pub, they circulated through Firestone Library, they splashed in the Wilson School Fountain, they went to the A & S luncheonette and then they gave an "X-rated performance in front of an R-rated movie at the Garden Theater." The pictures have been withheld to protect the identity of the participants.

Arts, Talks, Misc.



On May 1, the [White Roots of Peace](#), a Native American communication group spoke about their efforts to keep Native American culture alive.



U.S. House of Representatives Judiciary Committee Chair, [Peter Rodino](#), spoke at Whig Hall and stated that Nixon's departure showed that the United States had a government of laws and the system worked.



Sample of Cultural Offerings during the weekend of May 9 through 11:

Drama

"Antigone" at Wilson College Theater.

"The Glass Menagerie" at Theatre Intime.

Music

Friends of Music: Edward Parmentier on harpsichord performing the works of Bach, D'Anglebert, Byrd, Bull, Frescobaldi, and Couperin.

Princeton University Brass and Percussion Ensemble: Performing at the Chapel.

Rock: Leon Kottke, master of the acoustic six and twelve string guitar at McCarter Theater.

Poe-Pourri: Eight bands playing rock, soul, jazz, and bluegrass from 1:30 pm Sunday to the early morning at Poe Field.

Concert Band: The Princeton University Symphonic Band playing a mixture of light and symphonic pieces, featuring Tschaikovsky, Shostakovich, Copeland, and Sousa on Cannon Green on Sunday afternoon.

Friends of Music: Susan Haig '76, pianist, playing works by Brahms and Mozart, and four pieces by Chopin in the third Oliver S. Plantinga Memorial Concern on Sunday.

Schweitzer Centennial: Jessie Ann Owens GS and Ann Tedards, soprano, playing works of Bach, Vivaldi, Pasquini, and Purcell.

Films Showing that Weekend on Campus:

American Graffiti

The Big Sleep

The Long Goodbye

The Twelve Chairs

The Great Race

Sports



The [Princeton fencing team](#) elected Rich Petretti '76 and Janet Neutze '76 as captains of the men's and women's squads for the 1975 to 1976 seasons. Steve Caputo '75 received the Todd Harris Award, Tim Wheeler '75 received the Johnson Award, and Janet Neutze won the Wanda Seija Award.



The [Women's Tennis Team crushed Penn State](#), 9-0, to finish the year with a perfect record on May 8. Louise Gengler '75 breezed through the final singles match of her Princeton career, 6-1, 6-0. Maureen "Mo" Curran '76 won her single match easily and then teamed up with Gengler to win their dual match, 6-1, 6-4.



Then on May 18, the [Men's Tennis Team](#) completed its second straight undefeated season beating Penn State, 7 -2. Bob Fisher '76 led the Tigers with a victory over Penn State's highly touted Jan Bortner.



[Eddie Donovan](#) was set to step down as Princeton's varsity baseball coach after 24 years. During his 32 years at Princeton, Donovan coached football, basketball, and baseball. Basketball coach Pete Carril said "He's God's work on Earth. The most amazing person I've ever met in my whole life. For those people who don't believe in God and for those who do, that's what he is— God's work on Earth."



Tiger Sports 1974 to 1975: Championship Teams.

Women's Basketball: Ivy champs

Men's Basketball: NIT champs

Women's Squash: National champs

Men's Squash: National champs

Women's Swimming: Eastern champs

Men's Swimming: Eastern champs

Wrestling: Ivy champs

Women's Tennis: Eastern Champs

Men's Tennis: Eastern Champs


Field Hockey: Undefeated, Big Three Champs


Fencing: Ivy Co-champs


Two-mile relay team: NCAA Indoor champs


Commencement—June 10, 1975



 Princeton's 17th president, William G. Bowen Ph.d '58, presided over commencement on June 10, 1975. 1027 undergraduate degrees were conferred, 291 of them to women.

 Two graduates, Cynthia Chase, the valedictorian, and Lisa Siegman, the Latin salutatorian, became the first women in Princeton history honored in those roles by a vote of the faculty.

 Lisa Siegman introduced a variation on the usual footnotes in the Salutatorian's Latin Address. The footnotes are used to cue the graduating seniors on when to cheer, groan, laugh, and applaud. As noted in "The New Princeton Companion" by Robert K. Durkee, Lisa observed that for 229 years, the greeting of the commencement audience in Latin had been the duty of a male student ("discipuli") and the male salutatorian had called for shouts from the boys ("Pueri, hic vociferate"). She was able to call for shouts from the girls ("Puellae, hic vociferate") and she added with spirit that at last it was the duty of a female student ("discupulae").

 Five honorary degrees were awarded at the 1975 commencement:

Roy D. Hudson, President, Hampton Institute, *Doctor of Laws*

Kurt Godel, Professor in the School of Mathematics, Institute for Advanced Study, *Doctor of Science*

Simone Veil, Minister of Health, France, *Doctor of Laws*

Jean Labatut, Professor of Architecture Emeritus, Princeton University, *Doctor of Humanities*

Peter W. Rodino, Jr., Congressman and Chairman of House of Representatives Committee on the Judiciary, *Doctor of Laws*



Final Test: Translate the Salutatorian's Address at our Commencement below without resorting to an app, dictionary, or any other resource.

SALVTATIO

ANNOS ducentis novem et viginti ab Universitate Princetoniensi condita eis qui hoc tempore anni huius ritus sollemnis ut participes aut spectatores erant congregati, salutationem in lingua Latina facere munus erat discipuli—discipuli dico.¹ Hodie nunc demum munus est discipulae.² Hoc officio quamquam difficile perfungi conabor ipsa et pro virili parte.³

Primum in primis, praeses Gulielme Gordonio Bowen, vir dignissime et praestantissime, qui fortiter ausus es ad rationes doctrinae propagandas columnas Herculis excedere et penitralibus Chinae peregrinari, te salutamus. Tuum studium educationis rerumque oeconomiarum scientiam magni facit Universitas Princetoniensis.⁴

Tum vos, curatores gravissimi et augustissimi, salvere iubemus. Gratia tantum valetis ut, quodcumque ad hunc campum perveniat, discipuli discipulaeque ululantes, avidi, pertinaces flagitent se vestris conciliis interesse.⁵ Vestrae prudentiae et sapientiae ad universitatem gubernandam confidimus et magnopere tribuimus.⁶

Deinde, decani vigilantissimi atque administratores diligentissimi, qui Aulam Nessoricam et Collegium Occidentalem insidentes rebus nostris moderati estis in loco parentis, vos salutamus. Quamquam saevam legem lori imponistis in animalis nostra, praecipue in nostros canes—Cerberos forsan vobis, familiares nobis—tamen in extensionibus permittendis vel thesaurum nostrarum vel aliorum scriptorum vel examinationum erga nos eratis benignissimi.⁷

Tum professores, viri feminaeque eruditissimi, doctissimi, humanissimi, vos salutare volumus. Non ignoramus vos semper de commodis nostris cogitasse et causa nostra egisse vel cum statueretis Requisitum Scientiae Rerum Naturae sustinere, conservare veteres fastos, P-F Optionem definire, necnon in vestras ordines illum clarissimum scriptorem "Fabulae Amoris" admittere.⁸ Vos salutamus et volumus ut in gradibus academicis persequendis vos sitis semper felices.⁹

Deinceps, parentes, cognati et amici, multis ex oris et finibus orbis terrarum congregati, vos cunctos ferventer salutamus. Vobis paupertate quadriennium vexatis haec oratio nunc est praemium vestrum—vos, quibus sub sole fervido hanc orationem opus est audire, comprehendentes nihil.¹⁰

Postremo, condiscipuli condiscipulaeque vos ardentem salutamus, vos qui istud magnum opus, thesaurum seniorum, et utis inquisitiones atroces sunt perpessi, et qui hodie adestis superstites.¹¹ Cum Bibliothecam Firestonensem non celebraretis, cum non lucubraretis, cum non rationem Biekerensem—o ista cara oblectatio!—culparetis, convertistis UGA ad USG, victoriam gloriisque ad NIT adepti estis,¹² manum etiam virilem Field Hockeyensem condidistis, K. L. frequentastis et vos in ordines ad Officinam Rationum Vitae in Aula Clione instruebant.¹³ At haec omnia sunt nobis praeterita. Nos mundum gelidum saevumque inituri ab ipsis hederatis et turri-eburnea discedere debemus. Itaque, amici, avete atque valetis.¹⁴

HABITA IN COMITIBUS ACADEMICIS PRINCETONIAE IN NOVA CAESAREA
A.D. IV ID. IVN. ANNO SALVTIS MCMLXXV ATQVE ANNO ACADEMIAE CCXXIX

1. Puell, hic vociferare.
2. Puellus, hic vociferare.
3. Omnia, hic placuisse.
4. Hic vociferare.

5. Hic ridere.
6. Hic gemitus.
7. Hic vehementissime placuisse.
8. Hic gemitus.

**We will see you at our Great 50th Reunion on
May 22 to 25!**

