

# Looking Backward: 1974-75 in review

## Fall Term

### Students begin to feel the pinch of economic problems

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Summer's brief intermission ended, and Fall term was back again like the rerun of a familiar movie. This year's crop of freshmen kissed their sobbing parents goodbye and gazed wide-eyed at their surroundings. Returning students routinely moved in, then jammed telephone lines to get in touch with old friends.

At first glance, it was like any other year, except that everyone was wearing painter's pants.

But something had changed. The University was caught in a vise of economic problems, and students felt the pinch for the first time.

Skyrocketing apartment rents forced many students to cross their fingers and apply for a dorm room. Fifteen hundred students were turned away from the dorms this fall, including about 800 who lived in the dorms last year.

Everything seemed more crowded. Study lounges were filled with students in temporary housing. Dining hall lines and registration lines seemed longer.

Crowded conditions caused other problems. Campus parking space was at a premium, and the Department of University Safety was writing out more tickets for unregistered and illegally parked cars.

And the University itself was writing out higher tuition bills. Students who couldn't find summer jobs were effected the most. At Encampment, a series of workshops held each fall at Stone Valley, rising tuition was a main problem discussed by student leaders, university administrators, and town officials.

Students also felt the economic pinch in smaller ways. The price of a candy bar in vending machines rose to 15 cents and canned soda was a quarter. All over

the country, food prices were up 14 percent from last year. In October, the cost of living reached a 27-year high.

But students took an active role in assuaging economic woes. The Organization of Two Independent Students set up the "Happy Valley Market," a food co-op to help apartment dwellers lower their grocery budgets. The Undergraduate Student Government helped organize a Tenant's Union to collectively fight rising rent rates and poor housing conditions.

Somehow, we survived it all, as the familiar Fall fanfare repeated itself.

Three Penn State Football games were nationally televised this Fall: Stanford, Maryland, and the Pittsburgh game at Three River's Stadium. All three were victories for the Nittany Lions.

For the Stanford game, the Goodyear Blimp arrived on campus for a one-week visit and the Stanford band hitch-hiked from California to provide a colorful, chaotic halftime show.

"The Coke Man" was also a special part of last Fall's football season. At the Wake Forest game, he stole the spotlight away from the regular cheerleaders to lead the Penn State students in a thundering, "We're number one!" The team, however, finished the season ranked sixth in the country, with ten wins, two losses, and a bid for the Cotton Bowl in Dallas. And their fans still didn't know the goddamn words.

While the football crowd clung to tradition, other groups pushed for change. Several campus and community organizations pushed the enactment of a Human Relations Ordinance in State College to protect unmarried couples and homosexuals from discrimination in housing.

The Calendar Commission, as set up to study alternatives to the present term system at Penn State. Their main focus was converting it to a semester system,

although student polls consistently favored keeping the traditional term system.

Women's groups on campus began groundwork for a Women's Center to serve as a cultural area, referral service, and a rape crisis center.

In late November, the Pennsylvania Student Lobby convened here to plan a lobby in Harrisburg for increased State educational aid and student-consumer protection.

Activism was not restricted to students. At Penn State, the Association of American University Professors and the Pennsylvania State University Professional Association continued their fight for faculty unionization—against the administration and each other.

National events also reflected breaks with tradition. Frank Robinson became manager of the Cleveland Indians—the first black man to hold this position in major league baseball. Evel Knievel, in a feat of derring-do, attempted to jump the Grand Canyon on a steam-driven missile. The attempt failed, but Knievel still was \$6 million richer.

In Washington, the Senate voted to make the 55 mile per hour speed limit permanent. And President Ford okayed amnesty for Vietnam war resisters, in return for an oath of allegiance and two years' public service.

Nixon—and Watergate—was the most controversial national event last Fall. In a move that embittered many Americans, Ford unconditionally pardoned Nixon from any Watergate crimes—barring his prosecution forever. The Watergate trial began Oct. 1 and starred "All the President's Men," without the President.

The drama of Watergate was paralleled here at Penn State. Undergraduate Student Government President George Cernusca became embroiled in a scandal when he signed two policies for a student health in-

surance plan. Cernusca was accused of accepting a kickback from one of the insurance companies. An investigatory committee set up by USG probed the possibility of perjury.

About the time that the Watergate trail began, Penn State's "mini-Watergate" caused heated controversy within USG, resulting in the resignation of several USG senators and Cernusca's vice-president, Marian Mientus. At the end of the term, the Senate had adopted three articles of impeachment against Cernusca.

Several letters to the Daily Collegian protested the "circus" atmosphere at the USG hearings. But Fall term provided much more enjoyable entertainment.

Performances by orchestras and bands covered a wide musical spectrum. The University Concert Committee featured concerts by Jackson Browne and Bonnie Raitt; Miles Davis and Cannonball Adderley; Souther, Hillman, and Furay; Loggins and Messina; and Dave Mason.

Colloquy hosted many speakers and programs. Roger Kahn, author of "The Boys of Summer," spoke on the golden age of baseball. Another sports author, George Plimpton, spoke of his experiences as an "amateur among pros." In time for Halloween, a program on the occult explored witchcraft and Dracula.

Other big events this fall included: —Nelson Rockefeller Ford's choice for vice-president, underwent a critical study of his finances by the Internal Revenue Service. Critics condemned the multimillionaire for his wealth, power, and liberal abortion stand.

—Both Betty Ford and Happy Rockefeller underwent surgery for breast cancer.

—The World Food Conference in Rome set up a fund to develop food production in needy nations. Agriculture Secretary



GEORGE CERNUSCA shows his concern during the Fall Term USG impeachment proceedings. The USG Senate recommended three articles of impeachment against Cernusca.

Earl Butz was condemned for a bit of advice he gave to Pope Paul regarding birth control: "You no playa the game, so no make-a the rules."  
—Vital issues battled out via the Collegian's "Letters to the Editor" included abortion, bike problems, smokers' rights versus non-smokers', and the merits of English I and III.  
—The Oakland A's won their third consecutive World Series Championship.  
—Several noted people died, among them journalist Walter Lippman and entertainer Ed Sullivan.

## Varied assortment of events highlights Winter

The lights went out all over Western Pennsylvania when a heavy snowstorm blanketed the area a few days before Winter Term began and damaged electric power lines. Perhaps the blackout was an omen—for Winter Term's events took many people by surprise and left others in the dark.

Many students were dismayed to find their dorms were burglarized over term break. Over 60 dorm rooms were illegally entered. Female students panicked when rapes were reported on

South Allen Street, College Avenue, and in Centre and Nittany dorm areas.

The Calendar Commission broke up for a 45-day "cooling off" period when they couldn't agree on an alternative for the present term system. They were deadlocked on two alternatives: a "modified" term system (three ten-week terms with an eight-week summer term) and the short semester system proposed earlier.

Economic problems continued to effect everyone, and for many, it was a

lean Christmas. 9400 Pennsylvania students had this year's state grants held back.

While students were recovering from New Year's Eve parties, Penn State's football team played Baylor University at the Cotton Bowl in Texas and won 41-20. Freshman player Jimmy Cefalo had one-third of the total yardage for Penn State.

Another blizzard blanketed the campus the first weekend after

Christmas break, and Steeler fans rejoiced in the falling snow when their team beat the Minnesota Vikings and won the Super Bowl.

There were a few surprises in national events, too. Watergate Judge John Sirica ruled that the coverup trial would not require the testimony of former President Nixon. Defendant John Ehrlichman cried when he testified how Nixon forced his resignation. And Sirica later released convicted Watergate defendants John Dean, Jeb Magruder, and Herbert Kalmbach from prison.

Wilbur Mills, chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee played with a firecracker that exploded in his face. His friendship with striptease artist Annabella Batistella (alias Fanne Foxe, the "Argentine Firecracker"), cost him the respect of his colleagues and the public. Mills resigned his post November 10, and Foxe gained a nationwide audience for her talents.

Back at Penn State, explosive issues brought some not-so-pleasant surprises. Racism on campus reared its ugly head again last winter when an East Halls student circulated Ku Klux Klan literature to several dorm residents as a practical joke.

Then, Karen Fitz, a black student, dropped out of Penn State after a year of nightly threats and obscene phone calls, culminating in her dorm door being set on fire. Letters to the Collegian editor condemned Fitz's harassers and suggested that she was the innocent victim of white racism.

Bob Ross, a black USG senator, was

charged with assaulting University records officer Elwood Wagner in a dispute over repeating a course. The University Student Conduct Standards Board voted on a four-term suspension for Ross, who unsuccessfully appealed the decision to the University Appeals Board. Finally, Ross appealed his case to University President John Oswald, charging the University's discipline system with 14 violations of his rights.

The Ross case prompted several investigations of the discipline system. Black Caucus petitioned University trustees to examine the system, along with the issue of racial harassment. The Graduate Student Association and USG also studied the discipline system.

Another big discrimination issue was settled last winter. After nine months of controversy, State College Borough Council rejected a Human Relations Ordinance which would protect homosexuals and unmarried couples from housing discrimination. A panel studied the ordinance for two weeks and decided it wasn't needed.

The Cernusca insurance trial also had a surprise ending. After being charged with malfeasance and accepting bribes, Cernusca was acquitted because the impeachment vote fell short of the two-thirds majority.

The Pennsylvania Public Interest Research Group appeared on campus Winter Term, promising consumer protection for \$2.00 per term. The funding mechanism, which would add the money to the student's tuition bill, was the main stumbling block in getting the program accepted among the students

and the administration. Nevertheless, the first three days of a petition drive for PIRG netted over 5,000 signatures.

Winter term also contained a lot of nice surprises. The array of snow sculptures included Richard Nixon, Snoopy and a man defecating on a toilet.

Another kind of art was explored when Colloquy brought famous cartoonists to campus. One of them, National Lampoon artist Vaughn Bode, said he enjoyed Penn State because it was so "perverse." Other Colloquy programs brought notables such as David Frost and Betty Furness to campus.

For culture freaks, the Artist's Series featured Ricardo Montalban and Myrna Loy in George Bernard Shaw's "Don Juan in Hell," and performances by the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra and mime artist Marcel Marceau. And for those whose tastes were at the opposite pole, the University Concert Committee featured concerts by Bruce Springsteen, Herbie Hancock, Emuir Dondato, and Michael Cooney.

Who said you can't win twice in a row? "Budman and Robin," last year's winning couple in the Interfraternity Councils' dance marathon, took the number one prize again this year and helped IFC raise \$10,824.91 for Easter Seals.

The spectre of higher tuition began to haunt students toward the end of the term. The State Board of Education approved a budget for Penn State which fell \$8.8 million short of the University's request. This issue continued into Spring Term.

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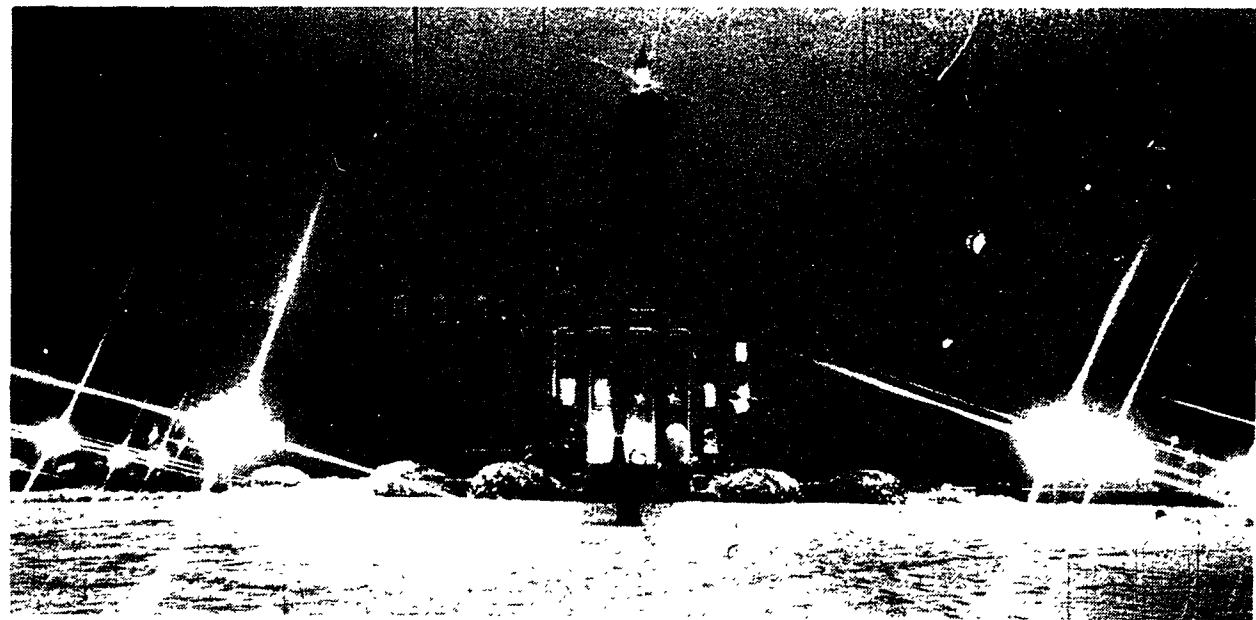


Photo by Eric Felack

## Spring: many unfinished chapters

Spring term is traditionally a denouement, a winding down of the year's events in preparation for the summer. But when students close their books this Spring, there will be many unfinished chapters in Penn State's 1974-75 history.

The spectre of higher tuition next Fall still haunts many students, some of whom may not find jobs this summer. Last term the House Appropriations Committee in Harrisburg approved a budget for Penn State that fell \$8.8 million short of its needs. It has not yet been approved by the legislature.

In a revival of the activism at Penn State five years ago, many students set out to fight the increase in tuition.

Last week, students protesting the increase marched through campus shouting, "Fight the Hike! Join Us!" The rally ended on Old Main Lawn, where students entered the building demanding University President John W. Oswald to state his position on the tuition increase. START-UP (Students against Rising Tuition at University Park) urged all students to write letters to their congressmen and senators.

PennPIRG may be another unfinished chapter this Spring. Petitioners are still working to collect signatures needed to get the organization started at Penn State. The petitions will be submitted to the University Trustees in Harrisburg when the signatures are obtained.

Disagreements over how the organization will be funded estranged Students for PennPIRG from the University this term. President Oswald walked out of a meeting with the group because two of consumer advocate Ralph Nader's officials were present. Later, Nader came to campus to promote PIRG—and challenged the administration to a debate on the issue.

The fate of the controversial Human Relations Ordinance will be determined next year. State College Mayor Jo Hayes will serve as an ombudsman to receive complaints on housing discrimination.

The Pennsylvania State University Labor Relations board is still conducting its hearings before the Pennsylvania Labor Relations Board over the issue of

faculty unionization. PSUPA alleges that the University administration dominates the Faculty Senate, convincing them that a union is not necessary. PRLB's verdict will not be ready until late this summer.

Any changes in the University Calendar will be delayed until fall, 1977. Whether or not the Faculty Senate will pass their resolution to eliminate pass-fail and late-drop options is also undecided.

The Vietnam war, an epic that took 35 years to write, ended this term. Two-and-one-half hours after the Americans evacuated South Vietnam, the country fell to the Communists. For the Americans, it meant over \$150 billion aid, 14 years of fighting, 50,000 lives, and their first defeat in a war.

There were other tragedies. State Senator Frank Mazzei (D-Allegheny) was sentenced April 11 on charges of federal extortion, but retained his seat in the Senate because his Democratic colleagues voted to keep him in. At Penn State, the Women's Arts Festival was refused funding by the Associated Student Activities and cancelled.

Saudi Arabian King Faisal was shot and killed by a deranged nephew. Greek shipping magnate Aristotile Onassis, actor Frederic March, Marjorie Main ("Ma Kettle"), and Moe Howard of the Three Stooges died this past term. Chiang Kai-shek died of a heart attack.

But there were comedies, too. North Halls crowned their "Emperor" after a week of crazy stunts by all the candidates. The winner ate two live worms onstage at a jammy. Spring Week featured humorous satires of everyone's favorite cartoons.

There were mysteries. Missing heiress Patty Hearst was rumored to be in central Pennsylvania, and her fingerprints were found in a farmhouse in the northeast part of the state. She is still missing.

Rapists that plagued the McElwain shower stalls and other areas of Centre Halls are another unsolved mystery.

There were records and rarities. The first doctors' strike took place in New York when physicians protested working hours of up to 100 hours a week. American taxpayers got their first tax rebates this

Spring. In a baseball game against West Virginia, Penn State's Mitch Lukevics pitched the fifth no-hitter in the team's history. "Ball lightning," a rare phenomenon, was sighted here Tuesday night.

There was entertainment—Livingston Taylor, John McLaughlin and the Mahavishnu Orchestra, the Martha Graham Dance Company, Vladimir Ashkenazy and Pat Paulsen. Colloquy sponsored a program on "Visions of Mankind" that brought R. Buckminster Fuller, Ashley Montagu, and Anthony Burgess to campus.

And there were surprises. All-American defensive tackle Mike Hartenstein quit Penn State following an assault on another student. George Cernusca entered the race for State College Borough Council, then dropped out. Controversy ensued when Office of Conduct Standards Director Donald Suit disclosed that police used telescopes to spot marijuana plants on campus.

The Undergraduate Student Government elections this Spring contained a little bit of everything—humor, controversy, scandal, and a surprise ending. Several candidates followed the footsteps of last year's Steve Shelmire. Michael Bahry ("Dirt") promised students a blimp-rental service; Eli Cain and Sally Snyder ran on an "apathy" platform; and Stanley G. Miller called himself "God."

Most students seemed apathetic about the USG race. Debates were usually attended by few students other than campaign workers. One debate in North Halls was canceled because of low attendance. In the end, less than one-fifth of the student body voted.

Candidate Joe Seuffer won the race, edging Doug Ford by only 46 votes. The outcome surprised many.

There is only a little while now before this year's history book will close. The entertainment, surprises, and good times will be easy to remember, like favorite spots in a book to reread once in a while. But keep in mind those unfinished chapters—and catch up on them next year. They just might be very exciting reading.

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SPRING TERM CONCERTS bring out the party atmosphere as shown by this couple at Movin' On.