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Editor

lim Zahniser

Assistant Editors

Chris Nelson

Theoskei Patterson

Lucas Plewe

Photographers

Chris Roddy

Theoskei Patterson

Chris Nelson

Tom Johnson

Morteza Anoushiravani

Roy Sowers

Carolyn Crooks

Lucas Plewe

Ruth O'Hara

Dale Robinson

Angus Matheson

Stephan Schuurmans

Sumner Walters

Bob Barrett

Bill Barber

Michelle LaBounty

Y.

Special Thanks

Steve Amen

Kraig Scattarella

Mike Lake

Steve Nehl

Hans Hickerson

Text

lim Zahniser

Karen Kellow

Advertising and Sales

Gerry Tinkle

Karen Kellow

Advisor

Paul Miller

Printers

Ryder Printing

Typesetting

Katy Juhl

Published by

Portland State University

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It's taken a long time to sort out all the ideas, throw away the bad and hopefully keep the good. Our intent was to produce a documentary; a photo essay that would capture Portland State people and this time forever in paper and ink. We began as strangers and learned to work with each other, to share our ideas and a bit of our lives.

Welcome to Portland in late 1976 and early 1977. Three hundredeighty thousand people live within the city limits, while the metropolitan area boasts a population of half a million. According to TIME magazine, Portland in 1976 is the most liveable city in the United States. Portland's mayor, Neil Goldschmidt is attempting to halt the flight to the suburbs by concentrating on mass transit and the revitalization of downtown.

The year's weather has been odd; a wet bicentennial summer preceded the greatest winter drought in Oregon's history. Cloudseeding has been used to coerce rain from cold, dry skies.

It's been a calm year — a year without wars or riots, a year without a gas shortage, though inflation is a problem. Portland's basketball team has stirred the citizenry more than anything else; the team is winning.

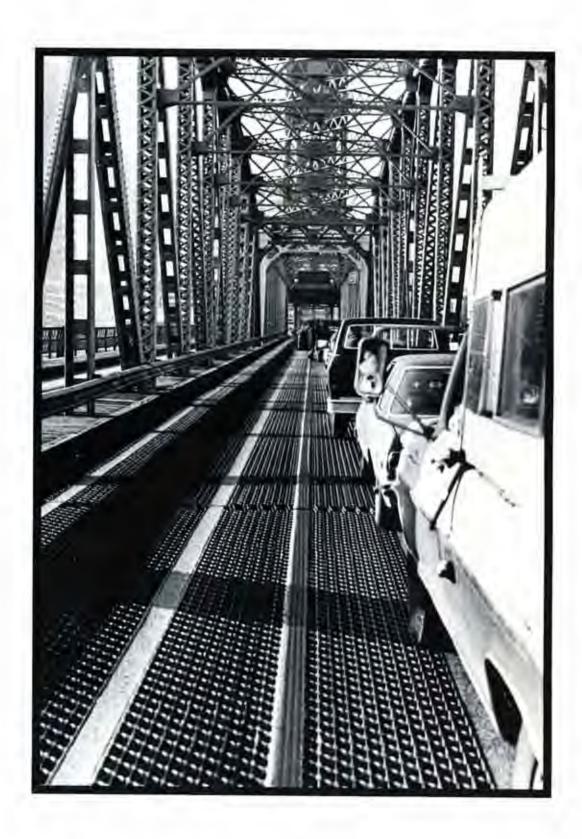


























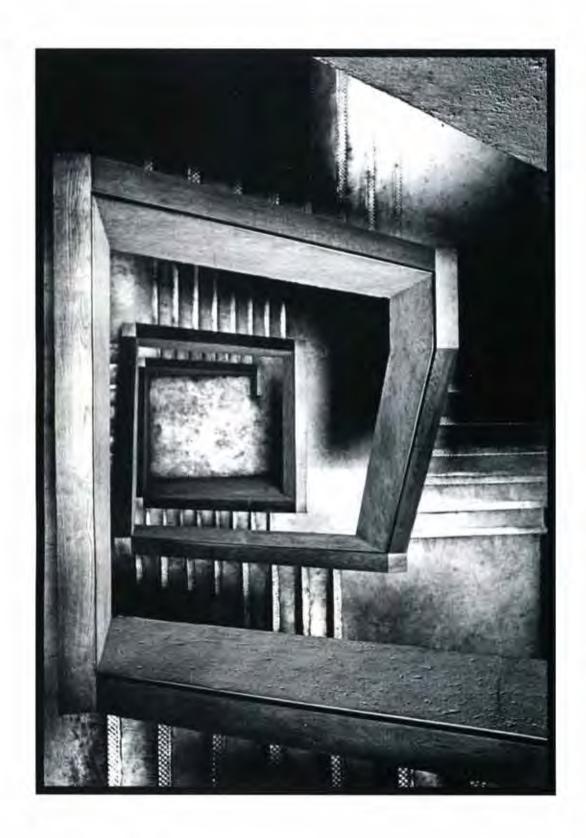
Portland State — a commuter school set in the middle of a commuter society. No ivory towers here; the city affects every student who attends Portland State. The only ivied walls here grace the Seven-Eleven store in the Ione Plaza. Portland State is a place full of people who have a bus to catch, a deadline to meet. Over one-third of the students are enrolled as part-time, with six credit hours or less. Most full-time students handle part-time jobs. No, Portland State is not your usual university. Unlike most universities, Portland State has very little student housing. Student commuters come from all over the city to school. Portland State, the urban university without a campus, is downtown's school.







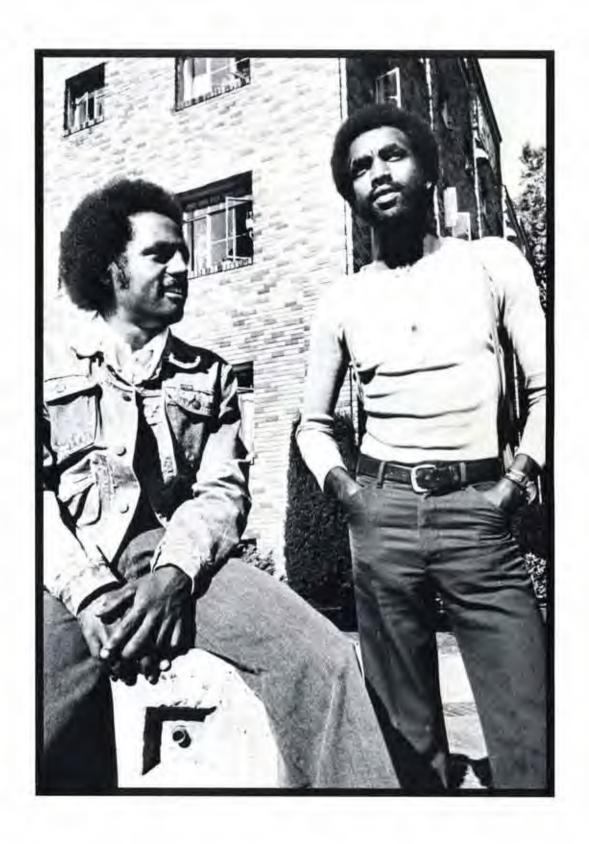


















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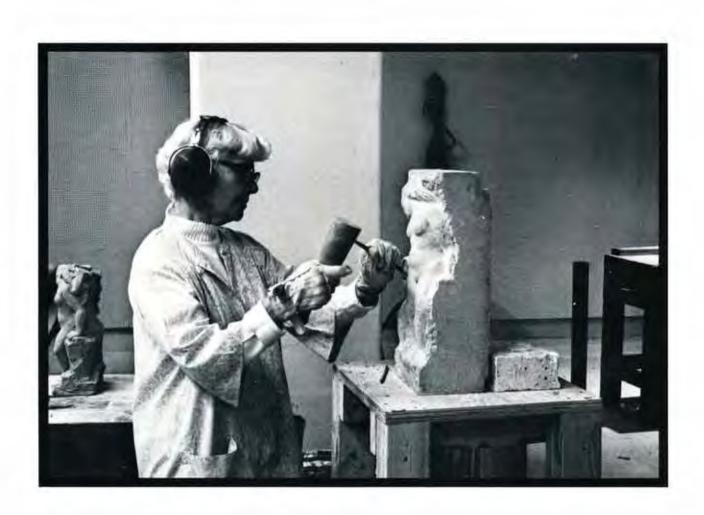
The university offers what you would expect, for the most part. Although Portland State is a liberal arts college, few students come to Portland State to become broad-minded Renaissance men and women. A good deal of the students see Portland State as a job-prep school, which prepares as best it can the future Tycoons of the West.

Space is a minimum; Portland State's eight main buildings house thirty-three different departments. Cramer Hall alone offers a variety of studies ranging from music to geography.





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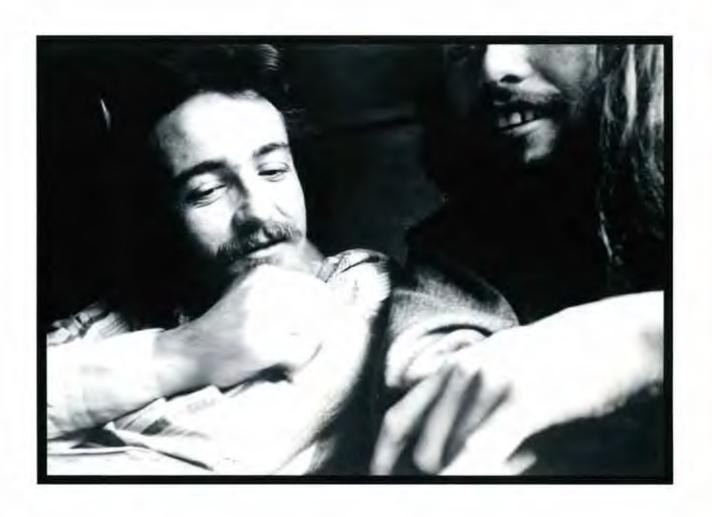














Portland State is a school full of older students, mostly college transfers. Eighty per cent of the student population is over the age of twenty-one; the traditional age for graduating from college. Sixteen per cent of the student body is over fifty years of age.

There's very little 'rah rah' college spirit here, Although Homecoming was given a half-hearted revival, most students have little time for typical college activities. Portland State students have greater concerns than Homecoming or Rush week. Tuition hikes and inflation force Portland State students to spend a great deal of their time just making ends meet.













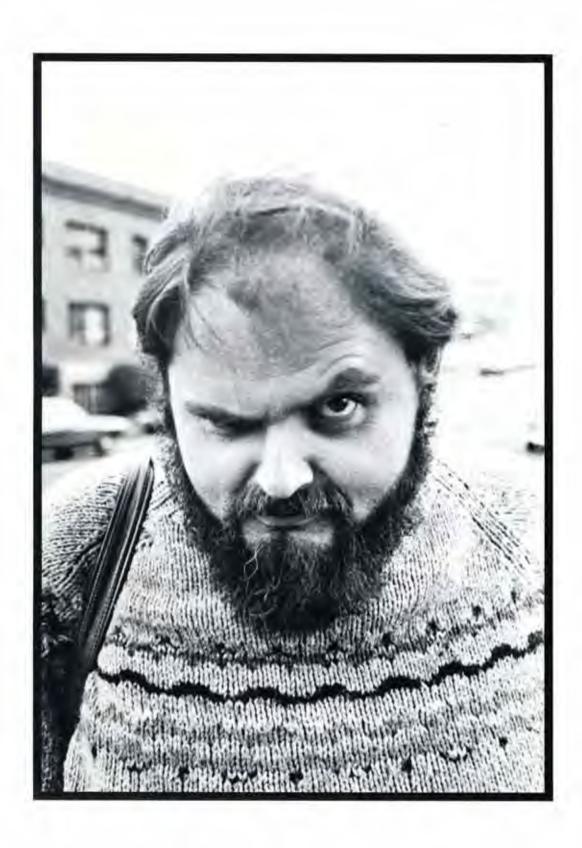




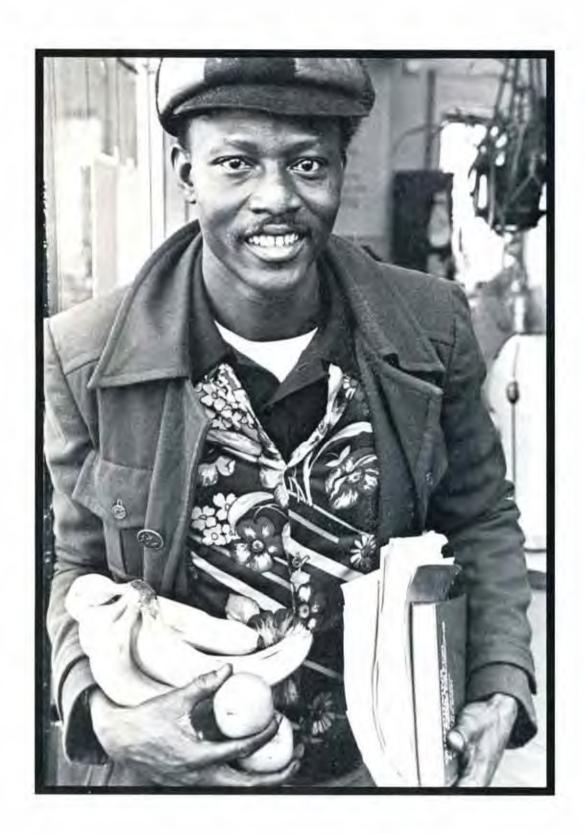












One could say there is no school spirit. But the school does have a personality. Portland State as an institution is a cold place where people take what they can but give little in return. The hallways are bare and the campus is small. The spirit of Portland state has a good deal of the spirit of the parking lots that surround it.

But there are friendly spots. Like the five blocks of park where students sit and meet; the Park Blocks, where students not only sit and talk, but get a chance to see everything from the fire-eating Reverend Chumleigh to the hellfire and brimstone of Holy Hubert.









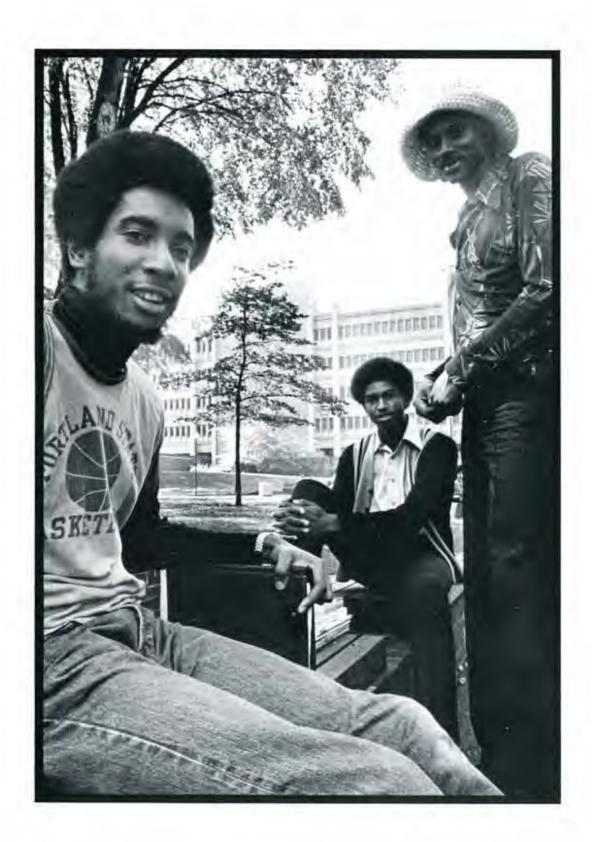






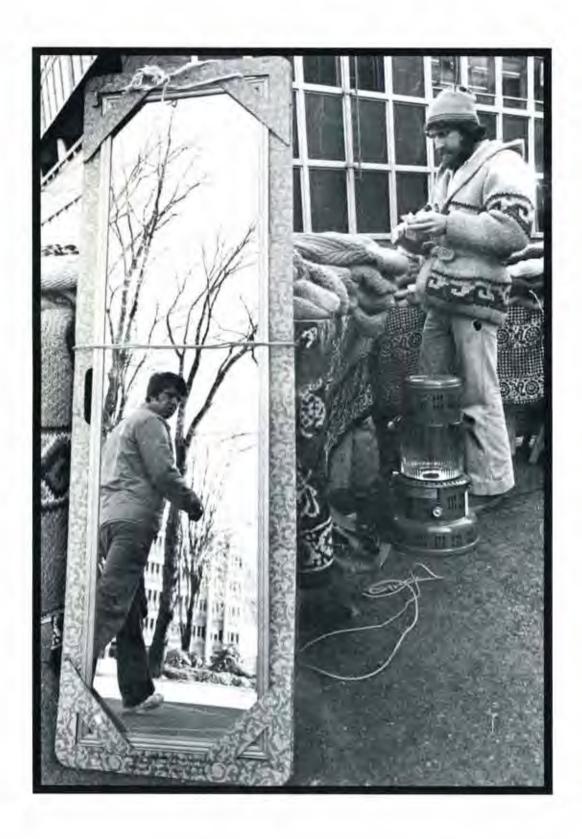




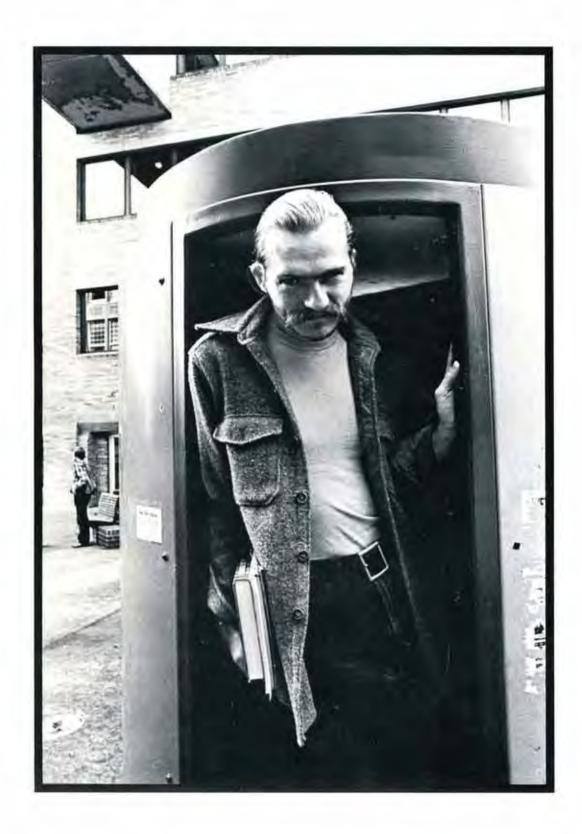












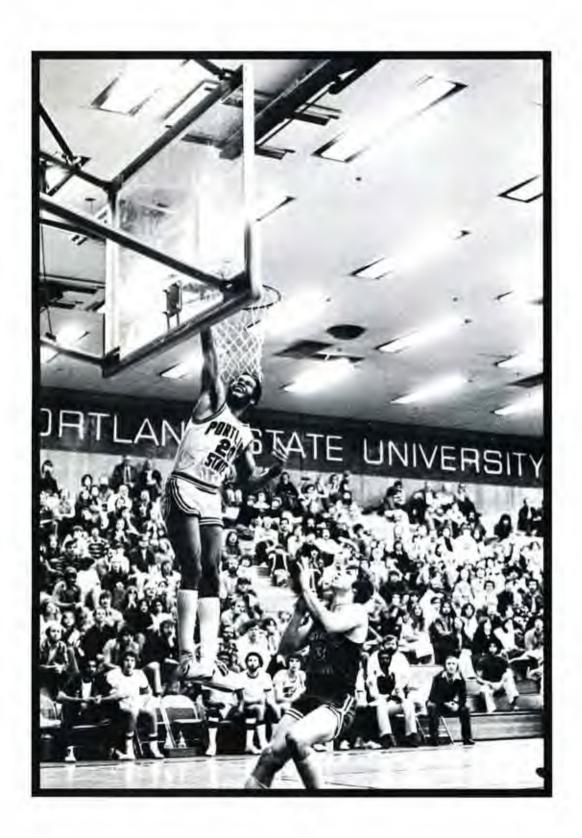
Student groups provide an atmosphere of shared actions and values, in the midst of a school where people rarely have the time to take their coats off. These groups and clubs make up Portland State's backbone, where students share not only with themselves, but share with the university and the community, a variety of wondrous activities and events.

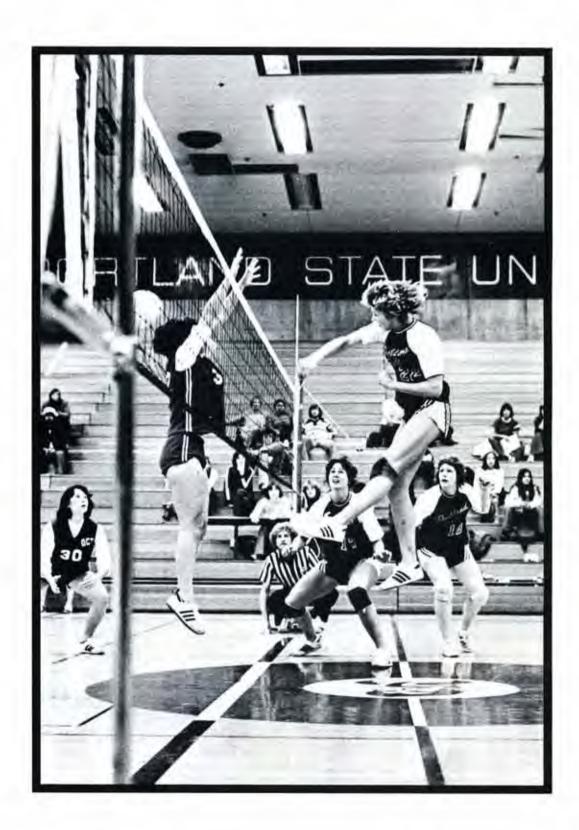


















The campus is nearly deserted on weekends. By Friday afternoon at three, the halls are empty. Doors are locked, buildings are closed. Students leave the campus, where on Saturdays and Sundays a few solitary strollers and occasional stray dog are the only signs of life.

On the weekend, there's time to hike. Work, Tinker, Be part of a family. There's time to watch television; Saturday afternoon Audie Murphy westerns, and at night, there's Saturday Night Live, for those who are able to stay up late enough. There's time to read the paper all day Sunday.

The city offers a million things to do. At night, theater lines are long, as crowds wait to see spectacular entertainment such as Rocky and Jaws. The bars and taverns are always open, where disco, foosball and bluegrass fill the dark hours with bright lights and excitement.





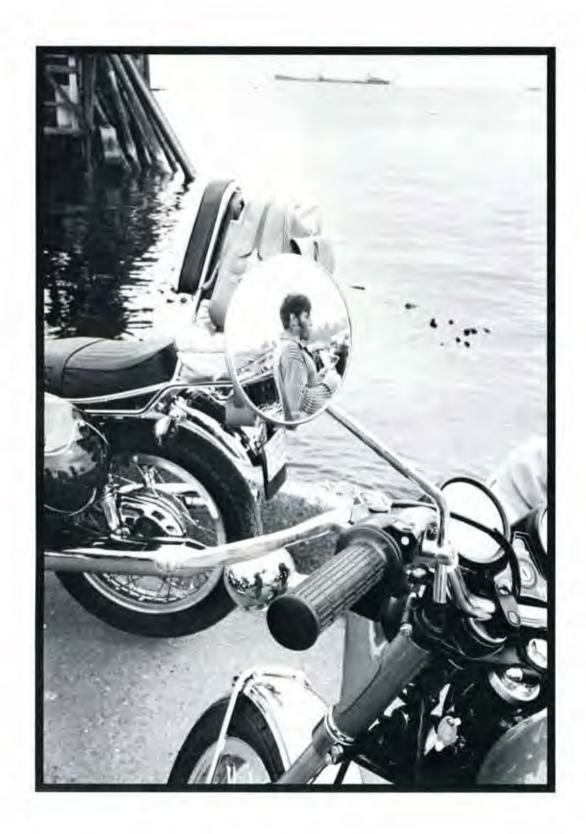


























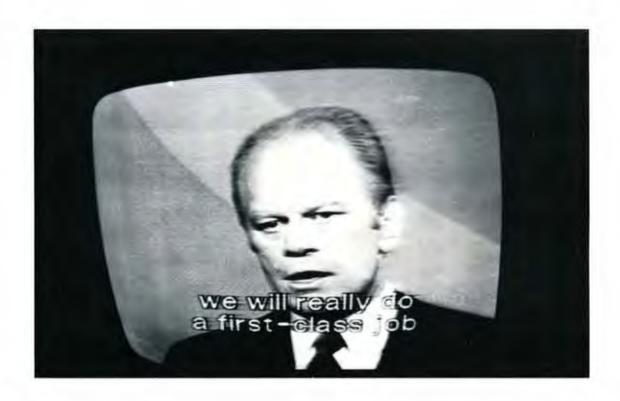
The year 1976 was a political one, with all of the surrounding excitement. As if that was not enough, 1976 was also the Bicentennial year, which provided us with a glut of commercialized patriotism as well as the best fireworks for a decade.

1977 was the year for television, the forum for those exceedingly dull debates. Carter stumbled in the ratings while Ford stumbled live and in person in foreign capitals around the world. As Gary Gilmore's execution came up, television bigwigs in Texas suggested that the execution be carried out live, as a deterrent to further violent crime.

All in all, an interesting year; between Butz's jokes, Rocky's flipping off hecklers, Liz Ray telling and showing all. Politics this year not only provided a great deal of entertainment but confirmed our worst suspicions about power and personalities.

Local politics sported several big issues, but student interest focused on Measure No. 9; a bill that would restrict the construction of nuclear power plants without sufficient catastrophe insurance. The measure failed.



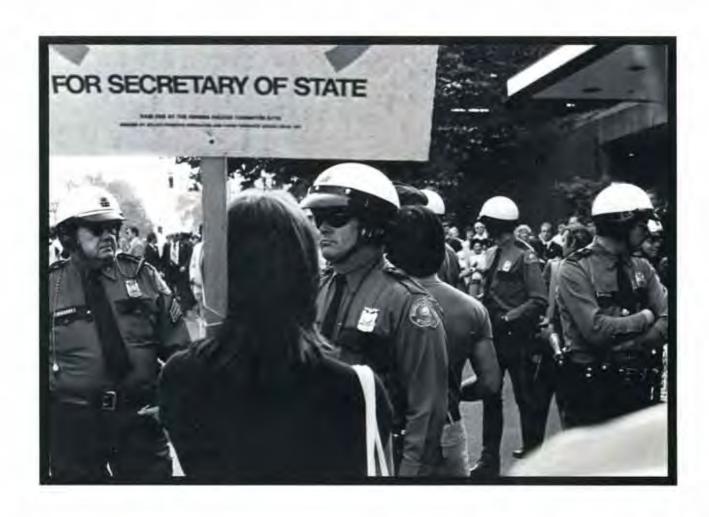






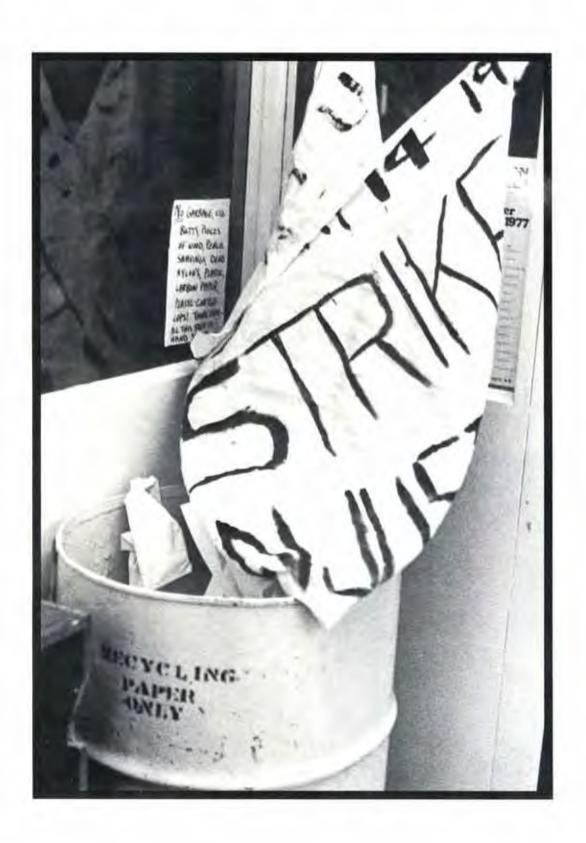












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