

## Almanac

United Press International  
Today is Friday, March 7th, the 67th day of 1980 with 299 to follow.  
The moon is moving toward its last quarter.  
The morning stars are Saturn and Mercury.  
The evening stars are Venus, Mars and Jupiter.  
Those born on this date are under the sign of Pisces.  
On this date in history:  
In 1932, in the depths of the Depression, an estimated 3,000 men rioted at the Detroit plant of the Ford Motor Co. Four men were killed.  
In 1936, Adolf Hitler ordered his Nazi troops into the Rhineland, violating the Versailles Treaty.  
In 1969, two of the three Apollo 9 astronauts flew their lunar module around the main spacecraft, then linked the two together again.  
A thought for the day: American reporter Ernie Pyle said, "War makes strange giant creatures out of us little routine men who inhabit the earth."

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# Christianity's role in society debated

By DAVID E. ANDERSON  
United Press International  
In the past year, a number of strongly worded criticisms of the World Council of Churches, focusing particularly on its social and political activism, have been published. The two studies receiving the most attention in this country were E. R. Norman's "Christianity and the World Order," and Ernest Lefever's "Amsterdam to Nairobi: The World Council of Churches and the Third World."

Both books attacked the World Council for having succumbed to radical, left wing revolutionaries and criticized the interfaith body for its theology and its programs designed to bring about greater social justice.

In the current issue of Christian Century magazine, Paul Abrecht, executive secretary of the World Council's Department of Church and Society, takes issues with the Norman and Lefever attack on the Council and accuses the two of distorting the record in an effort to make their case against the WCC.

It is an increasingly important debate, not only for the World Council of Churches and its image in the United States, but because it focuses on the central question of the political and social role of the Christian and the church in an increasingly complex and dangerous world.

"As the staff person responsible for many years for the council's studies on ethics and social questions, I consider that Lefever has written a simplistic, biased, essentially confused and contradictory account of the social thought of the World Council of Churches," Abrecht writes.

Abrecht says of the Norman book that "for him (Norman), an active concern for social justice seems to constitute 'unsound teaching' in the church," and that Norman "dismisses the political and social witness of all the churches as Marxist-tainted and is not at all clear on what he thinks acceptable Christian political action would be."

Lefever, too, Abrecht argues, is unclear on his own position, although Lefever does claim Christians can and should support justice, freedom, the rule of law and respect for the human.

"The question is how do we support these 'universal Christian standards' without making some kind of political judgment based on the relative merits of the different political

options?" Abrecht asks. "Without making choice, Christians are in danger of using their 'universal standards' to avoid political responsibilities," Abrecht says. "By refusing to make a choice, many conservative church people separate themselves from the main body of Christian social thought today and end up supporting the status quo."

In particular, Abrecht singles out Lefever's charge that the 1966 Conference on Church and Society, the turning point in the World Council move to radicalism, was manipulated and that delegates were chosen "in part, because of their ideological preference for 'rapid social change.'"

"No evidence is cited for these accusations," Abrecht says, and adds, "Lefever seems unaware that several American businessmen who participated in the conference wrote evaluations of the conference that effectively refute his charge that the meeting was dominated or manipulated by radicals."

Finally, the issue with the World Council of Churches — and within the Council itself — involves the question of what strategies for social change are consistent with Christian principles.

## Station owner gets briefing

United Press International  
ST. LOUIS — The White House invited the invitation for Edward Finkelstein, the union publicist, but the letter went to Edward Finkelstein, the gasoline station owner.

When Finkelstein, the service station man, twice questioned whether he might have been chosen by mistake, he was assured both times the White House doesn't make such mistakes.

So, he made plans to be in Washington with community leaders

invited to a briefing with President Carter and other high government officials.

"The president is interested in meeting with community leaders from a wide variety of backgrounds, and we'll look forward to having Mr. Finkelstein — both Mr. Finkelstein — here," presidential assistant Ann Wexler said.

The mistake was attributed to both Finkelsteins being residents of suburban University City.

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**what's up**  
**FRIDAY**  
AGGIE BASEBALL: The Aggies will play TCU at 3 p.m. at Baseball Field.  
VETERANS' BENEFITS: The deadline for filing for Veterans Administration benefits for the summer term is March 15. Applications will be taken at Ramp B Hart Hall any weekday between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.  
THE EUROPE CLUB AND THE TURKISH STUDENTS ASSOCIATION: Will jointly present the world famous producer Lelouch's romantic-documentary on the scenic beauties of the ancient civilizations: Turkey, at 7 p.m. in 607 Rudder. Interests are invited and admission is free.  
STUDENT ELECTIONS: Filing for positions in Student Government, Class Councils, Residence Hall Association, Off-Campus Activities, Graduate Student Council and Yell Leaders will continue from 8 a.m. to 3 h.m. through March 17 in 216 MSC.

**SATURDAY**  
AGGIE BASEBALL: The Aggies will play TCU at 1 p.m. at Baseball Field.

**SUNDAY**  
BRAZOS SYMPHONY: Will be in concert at 3:30 p.m. in the Theater. Tickets are available from the MSC Box Office for students, \$2.50 for non-students and \$1.50 for children under 12.

# Project aids non-smokers

United Press International  
ST. LOUIS — Showing pictures of a cancerous lung to 12-year-old students and warning them such lungs could be theirs if they start smoking is unlikely to keep them away from cigarettes.

Dr. Jerome D. Cohen, who led a St. Louis University research project on attitudes toward smoking in adolescence, says scare tactics are ineffective. What works best, Cohen said in an interview, are appeals to the students' self-esteem.

"You can't tell students smoking will lead to a heart attack or emphysema," Cohen said. "Those things don't mean anything to 12-year-old kids. You have to get them where it hurts, get to the reasons why they smoke."

"Kids get all sorts of pressures on them at this age, and three-fourths of all people who smoke began in their teen-age years. If they can get through these critical years, they're likely to escape smoking," he said.

"Kids have to be able to deal with these pressures. When someone calls them chicken for not taking a cigarette, they have to be able to say, 'Thanks, but no thanks. I'm proud to be a non-smoker.'"

Cohen and groups of medical students took their projects to 338 sixth and seventh graders. He said the project, conducted during school hours, was welcomed by administrators, teachers and students.

Meeting weekly with the students for eight weeks, the research team found peer pressure, advertising and adult influences were the strongest factors faced by adolescents entering the years where most persons begin to smoke.

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If YOU had an AGGIELAND photo taken please read this:

Due to difficulties with the mail service, it will be necessary to take several group photos again. A representative of Yearbook Associates, the 1980 AGGIELAND photographer, will be contacting your group sometime this week if he has not already done so, to arrange a second photo session. We're very sorry about the problem, but please do everything possible to cooperate in setting a photo time as soon as possible.

If you haven't yet received your proofs, please read this:

Because of a camera malfunction for a short time during the class picture-taking sessions, several proofs could not be correctly identified. Those proofs all are available in Room 216, Reed McDonald Building. They belong to the people whose names appear on the following list. If YOUR NAME is on this list, PLEASE come to Room 216 AS SOON AS POSSIBLE to identify your proofs so we can process them for the 1980 AGGIELAND.

- |                     |                        |
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| Ronald Bailey       | Lori Rowbotham         |
| Paul D. Bettencourt | William Schlafer       |
| Randall Binson      | Nancy Singleterry      |
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