

Birth rate falls, affects Japan economically

United Press International
 DALLAS — Birth control measures in Japan have proved so effective they now threaten the country's productivity by reducing the number of young people available for work, a Texas A&M sociologist said.
 The Japanese birth rate fell from 34 per 1,000 persons in 1947 to 17 per 1,000 in the first half of the 1980s, setting off a trend that soon will force companies to bid against one another for fewer starting employees, Professor Jon Alston said.
 Alston, who presented his findings to the Second Japan-United States Business Conference in Tokyo, warned the birth rate decline will jeopardize Japan's social stability and economic successes in the next two decades.
 Alston, who specializes in the sociology of work, said the Japanese corporate structure is founded on the principles of lifetime employment and seniority.
 The seniority principle does not allow a younger employee to earn more than older employees, Alston said. Senior executives, in turn, are encouraged to invest in employees and upgrade their skills over the years. The system reduces employee competition for promotion because they know faithful service eventually will be rewarded, Alston said.
 With fewer younger employees available, Alston said, "The end result will be to raise starting salaries faster than those received by older workers — a strategy that is bound to cause discontent."
 This demographic 'pinch' of younger workers will cause Japan's labor costs to be less and less competitive, especially in comparison to industrializing Third World countries like the Philippines and Korea (which have) an excess of younger

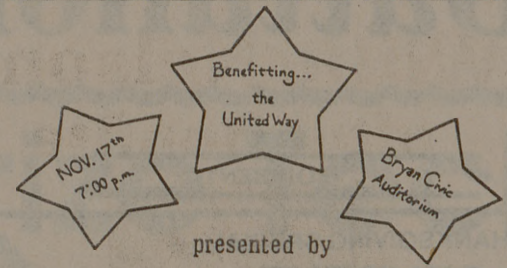
workers ... Japanese companies will become more like their Western counterparts."
 Alston said the birth control program in Japan was a consequence of its own history. The loss of its colonies in China and Korea after World War I, forced the Japanese to move back to their already overcrowded land, creating a severe population pressure.
 "The country had to take immediate steps to control its population and the government instituted one of the strongest programs after 1945," Alston said.
 Urbanization caused a further birth rate decline in Japan, one of the most heavily urbanized countries in the world.
 "The Japanese have been aware of this problem of falling birth rate for quite some time but are not able to do much to change the situation," Alston said. "It is almost impossible for the government to reverse the trend. Some countries in Western Europe have tried measures to boost the birth rates but for most part they have been failures."
 Alston said, in the short-term, Japan will try to overcome the problem by increasing the productivity of its workers through automation.
 "But I maintain this cannot work in the longer run because the growing shortage of younger workers will eventually negate those efforts," Alston said. "Also, Japan is a strong tradition-bound society and its culture respects age. The emphasis on seniority will tend to limit social change and innovations. We in the United States have not encountered this problem because we prefer the figure of the young over that of the wisdom of age."

What's up

Tuesday

- RESIDENCE HALL ASSOCIATION:** is meeting at 7 p.m. in 150 Blocker. The theme is cheap sunglasses — wear yours.
AMERICAN SOCIETY OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS: is meeting at 5:30 p.m. in 105C LAED. Jim Keeter of San Antonio will speak.
RANGE CLUB: Gerald Proctor, a manager from Granada Land and Cattle Co., will speak on their grazing systems and how Granada has been effected by droughts. The program is at 7 p.m. in 215 ANIN.
MSC MADRIGAL DINNERS: the committee is meeting at 7 p.m. in 230 MSC.
STUDENT GOVERNMENT FINANCE COMMITTEE: is meeting at 7 p.m. in 203 MSC.
TAMU HORSEMAN'S ASSOCIATION: there will be a Peruvian Peso riding demonstration at 7 p.m. in the Animal Science Pavilion.
BRAZOS VALLEY SIERRA CLUB: "The Garden of Eden," a nature conservancy film, will be shown at 7:30 p.m. in 507 Rudder.
BIOMEDICAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION: a lecture on embryo transfer will be presented at 7 p.m. in 201 VMS.
GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY: is meeting at 8 p.m. in 707 O&M.
POLITICAL SCIENCE SOCIETY AND PI SIGMA ALPHA: are meeting in 510 Rudder at 7:30 p.m. to discuss future events.
LE CERCLE FRANCAIS: the French club is meeting at 7 p.m. in 502 Rudder. Dues will be collected and party plans will be discussed.
TAMU ONE WHEELERS: is meeting at 6 p.m. in the Grove.
HISTORY CLUB: is meeting at 7 p.m. in 204 Sterling C. Evans Library.
AGGIE GOP: is meeting at 7 p.m. in 206 MSC. Aggiland pictures will be taken after the meeting.
TEXAS A&M FORUM: is sponsoring a debate on the question of A&M emphasizing athletics over academics at 7 p.m. in 701 Rudder.
TEXAS A&M ANTIQUE AUTO CLUB: is meeting at 7 p.m. in 308 Rudder.
AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF CHEMICAL ENGINEERS: is meeting at 7 p.m. in 203 Zachry. Aggiland pictures will be taken and a business meeting will be held.
TAMU ROADRUNNERS: is meeting at 7 p.m. in 501 Rudder. Nutrition and the runner will be discussed.
TAU BETA PI: is offering free tutoring in freshman and sophomore level engineering courses from 5 to 8 p.m. every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday in 119C Zachry.
Items for What's Up should be submitted to The Battalion, 216 Reed McDonald, no less than three days prior to desired publication date.

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Single-issue Catholics rebuked

United Press International
 WASHINGTON — The president of the nation's Roman Catholic bishops Monday rebuked single-issue Catholics who make abortion the Church's only issue on the public agenda.
 "We oppose a single-issue strategy because only by addressing a broad spectrum of issues can we do justice to the moral tradition we possess as a church and thereby demonstrate the moral challenges we face as a nation," Bishop James Malone of Youngstown, Ohio, told the opening session of the annual meeting of the

National Conference of Catholic Bishops.
 "The inner logic of Catholic moral principles has taught us to join issues rather than to isolate them," Malone said.
 Malone's speech put him and the conference leadership squarely on the side of what has been called the consistent ethic of life movement, led by Cardinal Joseph L. Bernardin of Chicago, and opposed to other influential prelates who stress abortion as the primary public policy issue for Catholics.
 The speech also hinted that the

bishops' conference may shift its strategy on the abortion issue while not ending its strong opposition.
 "There is room for honest debate about how we should respond in law and policy to the challenge of restoring legal protection to the unborn, but the debate should not be whether a response is needed," Malone said.
 In the past, the bishops have been united behind the drive to secure passage of a constitutional amendment that would overturn the 1973 Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion.

Malone strongly endorsed the work of the bishops' committee in writing a draft statement on the church and the U.S. economy, underscoring the committee's denunciation of continued poverty in the United States.
 "Poverty is a direct attack on the image of God found in the least of our neighbors," he said. "The moral quality of a society is judged not by how it honors the powerful but by how it respects the claims and needs of the powerless."

Defiant minister might be defrocked

United Press International
 CLAIRTON, Pa. — The Lutheran Church has begun proceedings that could lead to the defrocking of the Rev. D. Douglas Roth, who has defied his bishop and the courts by preaching despite being suspended from his duties.
 Bishop Kenneth R. May of the Pittsburgh-area Lutheran Church of America synod said he has appointed a five-member committee to investigate Roth.
 May said that if the panel determines Roth displayed "willful disregard of the constitution and bylaws" of the church, the Lutheran church

will begin procedures to revoke Roth's ordination.
 May suspended Roth from his duties Oct. 17 after some congregation members complained about his involvement with the Denominational Ministry Strategy, a controversial clergymen's labor activist group.
 The parishioners also were angered that earlier in the year about \$4,000 out of the church's \$8,000 benevolence fund had been allocated for the Denominational Ministry Strategy.
 Since his suspension, Roth has preached every Sunday in defiance of May's order.

Roth unlocked the doors of Trinity Lutheran Church Sunday and preached without incident.
 Roth said if he was not arrested "within a little while" Monday he would continue his pastoral duties. He remained in the church Monday.
 A sheriff's department spokesman said Roth probably would be arrested today.
 "It's a state holiday (Veterans Day), and we wouldn't want him locked up overnight," the spokesman said. "If anything happens it'll probably be tomorrow."
 Allegheny County Common Pleas Judge Emil Narick upheld May's ac-

tion Nov. 2 and ordered Roth to stop preaching.
 Roth ignored that order and barricaded himself inside the church Nov. 5, skipping a hearing on a contempt of court citation Friday. Narick then issued a warrant for his arrest, fined him \$1,200 and sentenced him to 90 days in jail.
 Allegheny County Sheriff Eugene Coon tried three times to arrest Roth Friday. He was prevented from entering the church by members of the Network to Save the Mon-Ohio Valleys, a secular labor activist group affiliated with the Denominational Ministry Strategy.

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