



Top News Stories from 1977

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World Events

- [Deng Xiaoping](#), purged [Chinese](#) leader, restored to power as [Gang of Four](#) is expelled from Communist Party (July 22).
- [South African](#) activist [Steve Biko](#) dies in police custody (Sept. 12).
- Nuclear-proliferation pact, curbing spread of nuclear weapons, is signed by 15 countries, including US and USSR (Sept. 21).
Background: [nuclear disarmament](#)

World Statistics

Population: 4.378 billion

[population by decade](#)Nobel Peace Prize: [Amnesty International](#)[More World Statistics...](#)

U.S. Events

- First woman [Episcopal](#) priest ordained (Jan. 1).
- Scientists identify previously unknown bacterium as cause of mysterious "[legionnaire's disease](#)" (Jan. 18).
- [Carter](#) pardons [Vietnam war](#) draft evaders (Jan. 21).
- Supreme Court rules that states are not required to spend [Medicaid](#) funds on elective [abortions](#) (June 20).

U.S. Statistics

President: [James Earl Carter, Jr.](#)Vice President: [Walter F. Mondale](#)

Population: 220,239,425

Life expectancy: 73.3 years

Violent Crime Rate (per 1,000): 50.8

Property Crime Rate (per 1,000) 46.0

[More U.S. Statistics...](#)

Economics

US GDP (1998 dollars): \$2,026.90 billion

Federal spending: \$409.22 billion

Federal debt \$706.4 billion

Consumer Price Index: \$60.6

Unemployment: 7.1%

Cost of a first-class stamp: \$0.13

[More Economics...](#)

Sports

Super Bowl

Oakland d. Minnesota

World Series

NY Yankees d. LA Dodgers

NBA Championship

Portland d. Philadelphia 76ers

Stanley Cup

Montreal d. Boston

Wimbledon

Women: Virginia Wade d. B. Stove (4-6 6-3 6-1)

Men: Bjorn Borg d. J. Connors (3-6 6-2 6-1 5-7 6-4)

Kentucky Derby Champion

Seattle Slew

NCAA Basketball Championship

Marquette d. North Carolina

NCAA Football Champions

Notre Dame (11-1-0)

Entertainment

Events

- The TV miniseries *Roots* draws an audience of 130 million.
- *Star Wars* hits theaters--for the first time--and will go on to be the second highest-grossing film of all time.
- *Saturday Night Fever* sparks the disco inferno and the popularity of movie soundtracks.

Sports Links

[Pro Football Summary](#)

[Pro Basketball Summary](#)

[Pro Baseball Summary](#)

Entertainment Awards

Pulitzer Prizes

Music: *Visions of Terror and Wonder*, Richard Wernick

Drama: *The Shadow Box*, Michael Cristofer

Academy Award, Best Picture: *Rocky*, Irwin Winkler and Robert Chartoff, producers (United

- [Elvis Presley](#) dies at Graceland, his Memphis, Tenn. home. He was 42.

Movies

- *Saturday Night Fever*, *Star Wars*, *Annie Hall*, *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*, *Julia*

Music

- Various artists, *Saturday Night Fever* soundtrack

Books

- [John Cheever](#), *Falconer*
- [Joan Didion](#), *The Book of Common Prayer*
- [Stephen Jay Gould](#), *Ontogeny and Phylogeny*
- [Kenneth Koch](#), *The Duplications*
- [W.S. Merwin](#), *The Compass Flower*
- [Toni Morrison](#), *Song of Solomon*

Science

- The neutron bomb is developed. Background: [nuclear weapons](#)
- The [space shuttle](#) *Enterprise* makes its first test glide, from the back of a 747. Background: [US Staffed Space Flights](#)
- Paul MacCready (US) develops the *Gossamer Condor*, the first successful human-powered aircraft. Background: [Famous Firsts in Aviation](#)
- [Lasers](#) are first used to initiate a [fusion](#) reaction. Background: [nuclear energy](#)

Death

- [Charles Chaplin](#)
- [Bing Crosby](#)
- [Groucho Marx](#)
- [Vladimir Nabokov](#)

Artists)

Nobel Prize for Literature: Vicente Aleixandre (Spain)

Record of the Year: "This Masquerade," George Benson

Album of the Year: *Songs in the Key of Life*, Stevie Wonder (Tamla/Motown)

Song of the Year: "I Write the Songs," Bruce Johnston, songwriter

Miss America: Dorothy Kathleen Benham (MN)

[More Entertainment Awards...](#)

Nobel Prizes in Science

Chemistry: Ilya Prigogine (Belgium), for contributions to nonequilibrium thermodynamics, particularly the theory of dissipative structures

Physics: Philip W. Anderson, John H. Van Vleck (both US), and Nevill F. Mott (UK), for work underlying computer memories and electronic devices

Physiology or Medicine: Rosalyn S. Yalow, Roger C. L. Guillemin, and Andrew V. Schally (all US), for research in role of hormones in chemistry of the body

[More Nobel Prizes in 1998...](#)

- [Elvis Presley](#)

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[Year by Year: 1900-2014](#)

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