

Warped



by Scott McCullar

Cronkite labels interview shows as 'garbage'

AUSTIN (AP) — Today's "trash television" interview programs, which thrive on the sordid, lurid and sensational, are "garbage" that is threatening good journalism, former CBS anchorman Walter Cronkite said.

"I am concerned about the garbage that is masquerading as television these days," Cronkite said. "Most of it is real scandal-tabloid journalism... absolutely, totally useless stuff."

Cronkite said networks are reducing the amount of time allotted for genuine news in favor of such programming, while the amount of important world and local news is increasing.

"Good journalism," Cronkite said, should be "an attempt at honesty, an attempt at fairness, and an attempt at completeness."

Cronkite's remarks came during a news conference here Monday to pitch a local water-pollution documentary he narrated.

Reporters asked Cronkite his opinion about programs such as the Geraldo Rivera show, which has been criticized for its subject matter.

Waldo



by Kevin Thomas

What's Up

Tuesday

PRE LAW SOCIETY: will meet at 8:30 p.m. in 410 Rudder.
SADDLE AND SIRLOIN: will meet at 7 p.m. in 115 Kleberg.
BIOMEDICAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION: Dr. Claude Nicobu will discuss AIDS at 7 p.m. in 201 Veterinary Medicine.
PRO-CHOICE AGGIES: will meet at 8:30 p.m. in 118 Heldenfels.
AGGIE TOASTERS: will meet at 7 p.m. in 105 Zachry.
ELECTION COMMISSION: will have a mandatory meeting for students interested in student body president, class councils, yell leaders, off campus Aggies and RHA at 7:30 p.m. in 102 Zachry.
CIRCLE K INTERNATIONAL: will tutor at the Boys Club in Bryan. Call Elizabeth Speakman for more information.
THE PLACEMENT CENTER: will have a summer employment workshop at 5:15 p.m. in 410 Rudder.
AMERICAN MARKETING ASSOCIATION: James C. DeBruin of KTRK-TV will speak about general broadcasting issues at 7 p.m. in Blocker. Call 845-6AMA for room number and more details.
LAMBDA SIGMA: will have an informational meeting for prospective members at 8:30 p.m. in 501 Rudder.
SPEECH COMMUNICATION ASSOCIATION: A communication consultant will discuss how to market yourself at 7 p.m. in 104 Zachry.
YMCA YOUTH FUN DAY: will have a mandatory meeting for anyone interested at 8:30 p.m. in 212 MSC.
STUDY ABROAD OFFICE: will have an informational meeting about Fulbright Grants and Marshall Scholarships at 2 p.m. in 251 Bizzell. There will also be information given at 11 a.m. about the Denmark program.
OFF CAMPUS AGGIES: will meet at 7 p.m. in 104 Zachry.
ECONOMICS SOCIETY: Professor Morgan Reynolds will discuss economic graduate school opportunities at 7 p.m. in 501 Rudder.
COCAINE ANONYMOUS: will meet at 8:30 p.m. Call the C.D.P.E. at 845-0280 for more details.
ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS: will meet at noon. Call the C.D.P.E. at 845-0280 for details.
RECREATIONAL SPORTS: will have registration from 8 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. in 159 Reed for: volleyball triples, table tennis doubles, badminton singles, swim meet, innertube water polo, tennis doubles and golf singles.
TAMU SAILING TEAM: will meet at 8 p.m. in 104 Zachry.
MSC GREAT ISSUES: will meet at 7 p.m. in 404 Rudder.
NUTRITION CLUB: will meet at 7 p.m. in 127 Kleberg.
PSYCHI/PSYCHOLOGY CLUB: will meet at 7 p.m. in 212 MSC.
TAMU ROADRUNNERS: will meet at 7 p.m. in 305 Rudder.
SILVER TAPS: will be tonight at 10:30 p.m. at the Academic Building.
CATHOLIC STUDENT ASSOCIATION: will present a social justice panel "Refugees and other displaced persons" at 7:30 p.m. at St. Mary's Student Center.

Wednesday

MUSIC PROGRAM DEPARTMENT: will have a brown bag concert of Indian Classical Music at noon in 402 Academic.
AGGIE SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY: Bill and Janet Steele will talk about deep caving in southern Mexico at 7:30 p.m. in the Parkway Circle party room.
CIRCLE K INTERNATIONAL: will meet at 7 p.m. in 301 Rudder. **STUDENT Y:** will show "Racism 101" at 7:30 p.m. in 601 Rudder.
LAMBDA SIGMA: will have an informational meeting for prospective members at 8:30 p.m. in 404 Rudder.
GAY STUDENT SERVICES: will meet at 8:30 p.m. in 305 Rudder.
HILLEL STUDENT FOUNDATION: will have Hebrew lessons at 7:30 p.m. at Hillel.
OUTDOOR RECREATION CLUB: will discuss the spring break trip at 7 p.m. in 305 Rudder.
ENVE: will meet at 8 p.m. in 150 Blocker.
CATHOLIC STUDENT ASSOCIATION: will discuss rights of the unborn at 7:30 p.m. at St. Mary's Student Center.
EPISCOPAL STUDENT CENTER: will have Holy Eucharist at 6:15 p.m. and then have dinner at the Episcopal Student Center.
UNITED CAMPUS MINISTRIES: will have an Aggie supper at 6 p.m. at A&M Presbyterian Church.
ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS: will meet at noon. Call the C.D.P.E. at 845-0280 for details.
RECREATIONAL SPORTS: will have registration from 8 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. in 159 Reed for: tennis doubles, innertube water polo and golf singles.
AGGIE PARTNERS FOR SPECIAL OLYMPICS: Dr. Doug Palmer will speak about mental retardation at 7 p.m. in 164 Reed.
STUDENTS OVER TRADITIONAL AGE (S.O.T.A.): will meet to plan group functions at 8 p.m. in 440 Herman Heep.
RHA DELEGATES: will have a round table meeting at 8:30 p.m. in 704 AB Rudder.
ADOPTION SUPPORT GROUP FOR WOMEN FACING UNPLANNED PREGNANCY: will meet at 5:30 p.m. at the Child Placement Center, 505 University #601. Call 268-5577 for more details.

Items for What's Up should be submitted to The Battalion, 216 Reed McDonald, no later than three business days before the desired run date. We only publish the name and phone number of the contact if you ask us to do so. What's Up is a Battalion service that lists non-profit events and activities. Submissions are run on a first-come, first-served basis. There is no guarantee an entry will run. If you have questions, call the newsroom at 845-3315.

Houston rodeo ends with record figures in attendance, sales

HOUSTON (AP) — This year's Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo closed with attendance and sales records, boosting optimism among those who see the annual event as a barometer of the city's economy.

The 18-day rodeo at the Astrodome ended Sunday with a standing-room-only crowd of 49,161 who came to see the country band Alabama, one of numerous acts that helped draw a record number of spectators to the event.

"The most important thing is we gave people what they wanted to see," said Leroy Shafer, assistant general manager of the show. "The next is the improved economy. You try harder when you think things are going to get better — and we did."

The 18 rodeo performances drew 717,541 spectators, breaking the mark of 646,735 set in 1982 — a highly promoted 50th anniversary year for the rodeo and during Houston's oil and real estate boom.

Total attendance of 1.24 million at the livestock show also topped last year's record of 1.19 million, officials said.

"The show exceeded all of our expectations and has given us a daunting mark to beat," Shafer told the Houston Post. "When we're doing good, we know Houston is doing good."

Sales for commercial and junior livestock totaled \$4.5 million, up 10

percent from 1988 and the highest since Houston's pre-bust days of the early 1980s. The record for livestock sales, set in 1981, is \$6.2 million.

Stock sales are considered an indicator of the city's economic health because nearly all stock bidders are Houstonians and higher bids are considered a sign of increased discretionary income.

"I think it's a reflection of the turnaround," Steve Woodley, assistant livestock show manager, said. "People have more to spend and are willing to spend it."

Performances by top-name musicians also helped boost rodeo ticket sales. Seven sellouts were recorded this year, including country singer George Strait's all-time record draw of 49,908 on Feb. 27.

Shafer said strategic placement of top-name musicians and the promotion of a diverse lineup of country and pop stars were aided this year by a booking system based on a computer marketing analysis of Houston.

Although it is still too early to gauge the full economic impact of the livestock show and rodeo, comparing this year's gains to 1988 results signals a successful effort.

In 1988, the show generated an estimated \$175 million economic boost to the city and provided about \$3 million to academic scholarships, endowments and agricultural research grants, officials said.

Lawmaker introduces bill to increase education budget

AUSTIN (AP) — A bill that would increase state spending on public education by \$1.7 billion over the next two years has been filed by a San Antonio lawmaker.

"It is not good enough to hold the line and accept the effects of continued stagnation in our public schools," Democratic Rep. Ciro Rodriguez said Monday. "Millions of Texas children are dependent on our commitment to meet our moral and social obligations. We must push onward."

A group of property-poor school districts, led by San Antonio's Edgewood district, sued the state in 1984 over the school finance system. Public schools are financed largely through a combination of local property taxes and state aid. The federal government also contributes some funds.

State District Judge Harley Clark ruled in favor of the poor districts in 1987, saying the system violated the

state constitution because it didn't ensure each school district had the same ability to obtain money to educate students.

In December, the 3rd Court of Appeals in Austin reversed Clark's ruling. The appeals court said that while the current system is not ideal, it is constitutional. That decision has been appealed to the Texas Supreme Court.

Rodriguez's bill would increase the basic allotment per student from \$1,350 to \$1,700 for the 1989-90 school year, and to \$1,850 for 1990-91. It would increase the local fund assignment percentage from 33 percent to 38 percent in the 1989-90 school year and to 40 percent in 1990-91.

The measure also would increase funding for compensatory education and bilingual education.

The \$1.7 billion price tag includes \$354 million for growth, Rodriguez said.

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Where: A-1 Lounge at the corner of Hughes and Fowler
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