

THE BATTALION DEBRIEFING

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Wednesday • April 2, 1997

► **Nation**

Cronkite well after quadruple bypass

NEW YORK (AP) — Walter Cronkite underwent quadruple heart bypass surgery Tuesday, and an assistant said the operation went extremely well.

"The doctor was very pleased," said Marlene Adler, an aide to the 80-year-old Cronkite.

The former CBS anchorman was found to have clogged heart arteries during a regular checkup and did not suffer a heart attack before the four-to-five-hour operation at New York Hospital, said Julie Sukman, another aide.

Adler said the surgeon, Dr. Wayne Isom, told her that "Cronkite was in wonderful physical condition beforehand. He went through it extremely easily and well and there were no surprises."

Cronkite retired as anchorman of the "CBS Evening News" in 1981 after 19 years. Since then, he has produced or appeared in numerous documentaries on CBS, PBS and cable's Discovery Channel.

► **State**

Texas bill aims to account for graffiti

AUSTIN (AP) — Marking other private or public property with graffiti would become a separate crime in Texas under a bill tentatively approved by the House.

Under current law, marking someone's property without permission is considered criminal mischief. Criminal mischief can be a misdemeanor or a felony, punishable by up to life in prison based on the amount of damage.

Rep. Joe Pickett, D-El Paso, sponsor of the bill, said graffiti is a growing problem that should be dealt with seriously. He said lumping graffiti with other criminal mischief keeps law enforcement officers from keeping good records on where graffiti is being put up and who's doing it.

The bill would continue to make punishment for graffiti based on the damage.

The bill, approved on a voice vote, faces a final House vote before going to the Senate.

Agents to deter drinking at prom

► The Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission will dispatch agents to make prom night inspections.

DALLAS (AP) — About 200 agents from the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission will be making prom night inspections in an attempt to crack down on teen drinking and driving.

The commission also will dispatch agents to graduation sites as part of a statewide program dubbed "Operation Safe Prom-Safe Graduation 1997."

"Our goal is to inspect 60 to 70 percent of the high school proms statewide," Maj. Dexter Simpson, regional commander of the North

Texas Region, said Monday. The commission also will conduct random stings looking for underage alcohol sales at hotels catering high school events.

In addition to checking with chaperones for alcohol complaints, Simpson said, agents will inspect parking lots and stores that sell alcohol near prom sites.

The push against underage drinking has been reinforced by legislators. The state Senate approved several bills last month strengthening zero-tolerance laws on underage drinking. The measures are awaiting review by a House committee.

A bill sponsored by Sen. Royce West, D-Dallas, would call for

anyone caught in possession of alcohol or driving with even a trace of alcohol in his system to lose his or her driver's license.

The Arlington school system will administer sobriety tests to students before they may enter their proms. Last September, a girl reported being sexually assaulted during an off-campus teen drinking party in Arlington.

Arlington Superintendent Lynn Hale said she supported the alcohol checks.

"I feel it is absolutely necessary that steps be taken so these students can be safe and have an alcohol-free prom," she said. "Underage drinking is a problem. We have data that shows alcohol con-

sumption is a problem throughout this nation."

Simpson said agents will concentrate their efforts on areas sponsored by smaller schools that don't hire police officers for security.

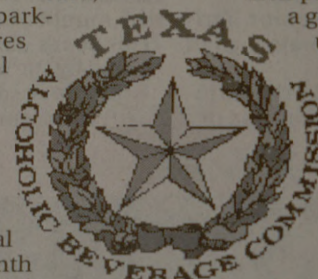
"We are there strictly to monitor and move on if there is a problem," he said. "It's not putting a lot of our kids in jeopardy about awareness."

Officers will not only monitor teens, but will be on the lookout for cases of adults making proms available to minors.

"That is a jailable offense," Simpson said.

Officials also hope to reduce alcohol-related accidents and deaths.

"We have so many accidents with kids, especially at prom and graduation," Simpson said.



► **This day in history**

(AP) — Today is Wednesday, April 2, the 92nd day of 1997. There are 273 days left in the year.

On this date:

- In 1513, Spanish explorer Juan Ponce de Leon landed in Florida.
- In 1865, Confederate President Jefferson Davis and most of his Cabinet fled the Confederate capital of Richmond, Va.
- In 1917, President Wilson asked Congress to declare war against Germany, saying, "The world must be made safe for democracy."
- In 1932, aviator Charles A. Lindbergh and Dr. John F. Condon turned over \$50,000 in ransom to an unidentified man in a New York City cemetery in the Bronx in exchange for Lindbergh's kidnapped son. (The infant, however, was not returned, and was found dead the following month.)
- In 1986, four American passengers were killed when a bomb exploded aboard a TWA jetliner en route from

Rome to Athens, Greece.

In 1995, baseball owners accepted the players' union offer to play without a contract, ending the longest and costliest strike in the history of professional sports.

One year ago: A federal appeals court rejected New York state laws banning doctor-assisted suicide, saying it would be discriminatory to let people disconnect life support systems while refusing to let others end their lives with medication.

► **Today's birthdays**

Today's Birthdays: Actor Buddy Ebsen is 89. Actor Sir Alec Guinness is 83. Actress Sharon Acker is 62. Singer Leon Russell is 56. Jazz musician Larry Coryell is 54. Actress Linda Hunt is 52. Singer Emmylou Harris is 50. Actress Pamela Reed is 48. Actress Debralee Scott is 44. Actor Ron Palillo is 43. Country singer Billy Dean is 35.

► **Weather**

Today	Tonight	Tomorrow	Highs & Lows
			Today's Expected High: 66°F Tonight's Expected High: 59°F Tomorrow's Expected High: 74°F Tomorrow Night Expected Low: 63°F
Mostly cloudy with a 50 percent chance of showers.	Mostly cloudy with a 40 percent chance of showers.	Cloudy with gusty winds. 70 percent chance of showers or thunderstorms.	

Information courtesy of TAMU

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TRYOUTS!

MANDATORY INFORMATIONAL MEETINGS:
(YOU MUST ATTEND ONE OF THESE MEETINGS TO BE ELIGIBLE TO TRY OUT)

WHEN?	MONDAY, APRIL 7	501 RUDDER	8:30-10:00 PM
	FRIDAY, APRIL 11	501 RUDDER	6:00-8:00 PM
WHO?	ANYONE INTERESTED IN TRYING OUT!!		

APPLICATIONS WILL BE DISTRIBUTED AT THE MEETING AND WILL BE DUE BY 5:00PM ON APRIL 21ST (MONDAY) IN THE AGGIE WRANGLER CUBICLE IN THE KOLDUS BUILDING (SSB).

TRYOUTS WILL BE SUNDAY, APRIL 27 IN G. ROLLIE WHITE 226.
CHECK IN FROM 11:00-11:30 AM. TRYOUTS WILL BEGIN AT 11:30.

FMI:
[HTTP://WWW.TAMU.EDU/AGGIE_WRANGLERS](http://www.tamu.edu/aggie_wranglers)
OR CALL JASON @ 694-7701

Join the Fun - Join FACES

- Be a mentor for a Freshman!
- Help us to Connect Those Who Need With Those Who Care.
- Applications available in 308 YMCA and due April 4, 1997 (845-9804)
- or download application at: <http://mothra/dived/faces/faces.htm>

PLAYBILLY

OPERA & PERFORMING ARTS SOCIETY

The Contemporary Musical Stage

The sequel to Dr. Michael Greenwald's highly lauded presentation on the history of the American musical, covering from West Side Story to the present.

The lecture will precede Kiss of the Spider Woman at 8:00 p.m. in Rudder Auditorium.

TONIGHT!
Rudder 601
6:30 p.m.

Admission FREE

Persons with disabilities please call 845-1515 to inform us of your special needs. We request notification three (3) working days prior to the event to enable us to assist you to the best of our abilities.

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MSC Great Issues presents:

Teaching Tolerance

featuring speaker

Morris Dees

Co-founder of the Southern Poverty Law Center and credited with bankrupting the KKK

Monday, April 7, 1997
7:00 PM
Rudder Theater
Admission is free.

Persons with disabilities please call 845-1515 to inform us of your special needs. We request notification three (3) working days prior to the event to enable us to assist you to the best of our abilities.

Presented in conjunction with Whoopstick (Saturday, April 12)

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