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Kerry to undergo surgery for cancer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Democratic presidential candidate John Kerry will have his prostate removed Wednesday after being diagnosed with "a very early, curable" form of cancer, his doctor said.

The junior senator from Massachusetts will go forward with his White House bid, aides said Tuesday.

Dr. Patrick Walsh, urology chief at The Johns Hopkins Hospital who pioneered a safer form of prostate removal and will perform Kerry's surgery, said the lawmaker should be back at work in a couple of weeks following surgery.

Kerry, 59, who is otherwise fit, has at least a 95 percent chance of being cured, Walsh said, citing his own newly published study of 2,000 patients who have undergone surgery. The surgery will be performed at Johns Hopkins in Baltimore.

Kerry, a decorated Vietnam War veteran who was elected to the Senate in 1984, scheduled a 5 p.m. EST news conference at a Senate committee room to announce his diagnosis.

The surgery complicates Kerry's campaign to win the Democratic presidential nomination but, with the first voting still 11 months away, aides characterized the diagnosis as a minor setback.

Kerry has made strides against his five rivals in a Democratic field that could grow with a possible announcement from Sen. Bob Graham, D-Fla., who is recovering from heart surgery. Vermont

Gov. Howard Dean, who is an internist, said in a statement, "John is in our thoughts and prayers during this difficult time. I have every confidence that he'll come through this well." Missouri Rep. Richard Gephardt, who plans to formally announce his candidacy next week, called Kerry to wish him a speedy recovery, according to a spokesman.

"This is like a bolt from the blue, completely shocking," said Massachusetts Democratic Party Chairman Phil Johnston. He said politics should take a back seat to Kerry's medical treatment for now.

Chris Lehane, a spokesman for Kerry, said, "Every expectation is that this is a simple procedure and that John will be back at full speed as soon as possible."

Kerry, whose father died of prostate cancer while he was in his 80s, was diagnosed at a fairly young age. Walsh said that helps his chances of recovery.

About 220,000 men will be diagnosed with prostate cancer this year, and 28,900 will die, the American Cancer Society estimates. It is the second-leading cancer killer of men, and risk increases with each decade of age beyond 50. But caught early, it is highly curable.

Surgery is the most common treatment for prostate cancer that has not yet spread beyond the doughnut-shaped gland that surrounds the urethra.

NEWS IN BRIEF

FBI had info before Oklahoma bombing

WASHINGTON (AP) — Two federal law enforcement agencies had information before the 1995 Oklahoma City bombing suggesting that white supremacists living nearby were considering an attack on government buildings, but the intelligence was never passed on.

FBI headquarters officials in Washington were so concerned that white separatists at the Elohim City compound in Muldrow, Okla., might lash out on April 19, 1995 — the day Timothy McVeigh did choose — that a month earlier they questioned a reformed white supremacist familiar with an earlier plot to bomb the same Alfred P. Murrah federal building McVeigh chose.

"I think their only real concern back then was Elohim City," said Kerry Noble, the witness questioned by the FBI on March 28, 1995 — just a few weeks before McVeigh detonated a truck bomb outside the building and killed more than 160 people.

Austin

Continued from page 1

stressed the importance of trusting the board of regents to make decisions for the universities and to not raise tuition so high that it would be unaffordable for many students.

"They (the board of regents) are not going to up and overcharge students," she said.

State regulation of tuition was enacted to insure accountability and protect the interests of Texas students. However, Faulkner said there is almost no accountability in the current way student fee packages are constructed.

Faulkner said the state currently only approves one-fourth of the amount of money students pay, the rest is set by the colleges and departments acting separately. He said board-controlled tuition would lead to better performance and better accountability.

The issue of tuition deregulation also has the potential to affect campus diversity.

In the meeting with Winslow, junior political science major Natasha Eubanks said students have a hard time trusting that A&M will continue its initiatives to increase diversity without state pressure and funding.

Stephenson said she doubted diversity measures would decrease with the adoption of tuition deregulation as "both schools are so committed to diversity and recognize they will lose students without it."

Coventry said diversity will not be lost if universities gain the authority to regulate their own tuition.

"The concept of diversity is not something coming from the top down for financial reasons; it is rising up from students," he said.

Winslow also warned about the potential danger of taking power away from the states and giving it to leaders who will not be at the universities forever. He said in 20 years universities, under different leadership,

could be facing a new situation and the states would have no way to regulate.

In addition to board-controlled tuition, Orange & Maroon Legislative Day participants lobbied for continued state support and the approval for universities to keep 100 percent of indirect costs earned by sponsored research projects.

While the two universities are known for their intense rivalry, volunteers set aside their differences to participate in this day, sponsored by the Texas Exes alumni organization from the University of Texas-Austin and the Association of Former Students from A&M.

"When it comes to financial support from the legislature there is no room for competition," said Steve Ballantyne, president of the Texas Exes. "We (the University of Texas-Austin and Texas A&M) are on the same team."

Cavalry

Continued from page 1

"When cadets are involved in something that warrants a grand jury investigation, it's a concern, but it's still too early to say how this will turn out," he said.

Burke Wilson, the Corps public relations officer and a senior speech communications major, said the hazing allegations against the Cavalry was not reflective of behavior among the rest of the Corps.

"It was an isolated incident," Wilson said.

The unit, founded in 1973, was a revival of A&M's storied horse cavalry, which was disbanded in 1943 after the U.S. Army eliminated its Cavalry branch.

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