

State

University seeks approval to test artificial heart

SALT LAKE CITY — The University of Utah has again asked the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for permission to test an artificial heart in a human recipient.

The FDA rejected a similar application from the university's Artificial Organs Center last March. The federal agency said the initial request was not detailed enough and left several technical questions unanswered.

University Medical Center spokesman John Dwan said Tuesday the new application is a "greatly expanded" version of the original request. The FDA has 30 days to reject or approve the second petition, or to ask for more information.

When the university made its initial application, it said the dacron mesh and polyurethane heart would only be used in a patient who could not be successfully weaned from a heartlung machine and would otherwise die.

Dwan declined to discuss the latest application. He said, "We think it is improper to get involved in a detailed discussion while the FDA is evaluating the proposal."

Heart surgeon Denton Cooley of Houston, Texas, has tested an artificial heart twice in humans — the first time 10 years ago, and the second just last month.

Cooley implanted his manmade heart in a patient on July 23. That artificial heart was later replaced by a human heart, but the man died. Cooley claimed he did not need FDA approval for the operation because the patient would have died without it and that he planned to replace the mechanical organ.

The University of Utah wants to use its artificial organ as a permanent implant in adult heart patients who are otherwise healthy. The recipients would be tethered to machines powering the compressed-air-driven heart and monitoring its functions. But, eventually, the heart would be powered by a small pump also implanted in the patient.

Attendants will try to end air strike

United Press International

The president of the flight attendant union for American Airlines said today she had invited the leaders of other flight attendant unions to meet in Dallas Friday to devise plans aimed at ending the air traffic controllers strike.

Fatt Gibbs, president of the Association of Professional Flight Attendants, said she issued the invitation in an attempt to save flight attendants' jobs.

Ms. Gibbs said American Airlines officials had informed her Tuesday of plans to lay off as many as 600 flight attendants Sept. 11 because of the air traffic controllers strike.

"Looking into the crystal ball, we expect a thousand more furloughed (after the Sept. 11 layoffs)," she said.

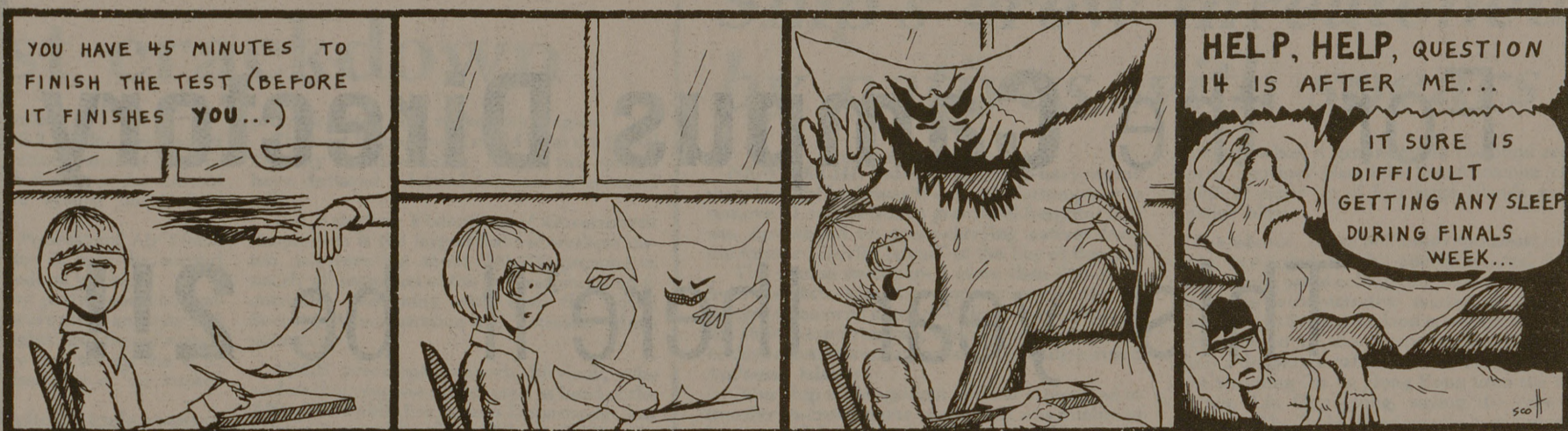
"We're going to have a meeting to see if we can't take some action (to help end the strike)," she said. "The pilots and the FAA say it's safe to fly, it's fine, but flight attendants are calling us to say where things aren't fine."

"A lot of flight attendants are afraid to fly. Our main concern is to get the government to bargain to get the (PATCO) people back to work and stop our furlough," she said.

In other union activity, the Texas head of the machinists and aerospace workers union is threatening to organize a human blockade of 100 to 6,000 people around a Houston airport in an effort to bolster the week-old strike by the nation's air traffic controllers.

Warped

By Scott McCullar



Ex-cops may be part of burglary ring

United Press International

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — Three former Albuquerque policemen may be involved in a burglary-robbery ring police intelligence unit officers say may include the entire Southwest.

Police Chief E.L. Hansen confirmed Tuesday that an investigation is under way, but said little else. "I'm not at liberty to comment," he said, "because numerous judicial districts in the state are involved in the investigation."

District Attorney Steven Schiff also declined comment, but said his office is keeping abreast of the investigation.

He did say, however that "the scope of the investigation covers several other individuals."

Albuquerque police Sgt. Jerry Stephens said information is being collected from at least six states, and Capt. Don Rodgers of the Farmington Police Department said the ring may have been responsible for as many as 200 crimes in 18 cities in eight states from Kentucky to California.

Rodgers said the ring has been linked to 17 crimes in the Farmington area, involving robberies, burglaries and fraud with checks and credit cards.

The investigation began to widen in March after former Albuquerque policemen Robert Davis, 32, and John Harper, 37, were arrested in Farmington in connection with several robberies and burglaries there.

Warrants were issued recently in Alamogordo and Amarillo, Texas, for a third former Albuquerque policeman, Donald Bailey. He was charged with armed robbery. However, officials in both cities declined to discuss the cases.

No charges have been filed in Bernalillo County.

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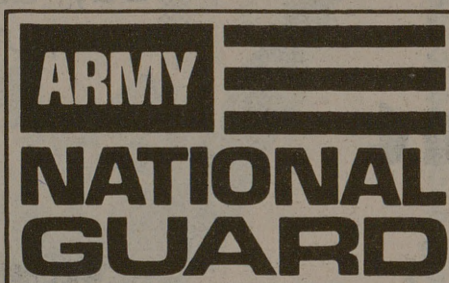
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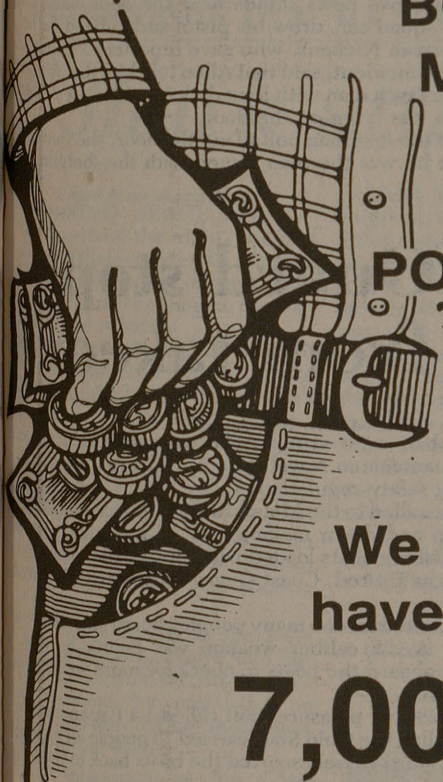


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