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Clark dies 11 days after getting heart

United Press International
LT LAKE CITY — Barney Clark, the world's first recipient of a permanent artificial heart, died Tuesday at 10:02 p.m. MST. He was 52.

Clark was on the artificial heart for 11 days, 17 hours and 53 minutes. He had been sustained totally by the man-made heart since 4:09 a.m. Dec. 2.

University of Utah Medical Center spokesman John Dwan said the prime cause of death was circulatory collapse and, secondarily, multiple systems failure.

Dwan said the surgeons who implanted the man-made heart — Drs. James DeVries and Lyle Joyce — were not available for comment. He said they were still trying to determine the cause of the latest complication.

Clark suffered a major setback Tuesday after the blood flow from his artificial heart dropped for about an hour and then corrected itself. Clark was rushed into intensive care about 4 p.m. MST and his condition worsened from fair to critical. Doctors failed to determine the cause of the problem.

Before the setback, Clark had been in fair condition since the end of last year. He had been hospitalized for a major setback Tuesday after the blood flow from his artificial heart dropped for about an hour and then corrected itself.

Chase Peterson, vice president of health services at the University of Utah Medical Center, said at a media briefing Wednesday night doctors were worried Clark was suffering from an infarction — or death of tissue to blood loss — in his bowel. He said, in fact, he has suffered a major infarction, it would be fatal in

two or three days," Peterson said, adding Clark was not strong enough to undergo major surgery to remove his bowel.

He said doctors believe the outflow disruption could have been caused by blood clots or a vascular spasm of the pulmonary artery, which connects the man-made heart with the lung.

Clark's vascular system, overloaded by a low urine output, could have caused a spasm similar to a muscle spasm brought on by stress, he said.

Peterson said Clark already was suffering from a bacterial infection of the colon, a generalized viral infection, failing kidneys and high blood pressure in the pulmonary artery.

Officials said the heart did not cause the death.

"His body had died and the heart was turned off subsequent to that," said Helen Kee, nursing administrator.

Clark's wife, Una Loy, was not present at the time of death. Dwan said she was in the next room with her brother and sister-in-law.

"She was saddened, but she was prepared for it because he began to fail very rapidly earlier this evening," Dwan said.

He said he was notified Clark was taking a dramatic turn for the worse at about 7:45 p.m. MST. "He has performed a great service to mankind and I pray for him. The knowledge these researchers have gained from Dr. Clark's sacrifice will serve us all," Dwan said.

He said doctors will perform an autopsy.



Hang on tight!

Bundled up for the recent unseasonably cold weather, Howard Tucker, 12, of College Station pushes a shopping cart around Rudder fountain while his sister, Ruby, 10, hangs on for the ride. The children, who found the cart somewhere nearby, say they like to play around campus.

photo by Peter Rocha

Credit card rates in Texas debated

United Press International
AUSTIN — A consumer group fighting for lower interest rates on credit cards warned a House committee Tuesday to be placated because some Texas banks voluntarily have raised their interest rates.

The House Financial Institutions Committee debated several bills Tuesday that would lower the maximum interest rate on credit card charges from 24 to 18 percent. The bills were sent to a subcommittee for further study.

Most banks and retailers in Texas charge a maximum interest rate of 21 percent. Some banks, including First of Dallas, recently have dropped maximum rates to 18 percent.

"I submit to you that these rates are lowered in response to the legislation that is before you today and in effort to mislead you and the public into believing that these large holding companies are competing against other over credit card interest rates," Jim Boyle of the Texas Consumers Association told the committee.

Boyle said interest rates had not been lowered by statute in Texas since 1876.

"Bank credit card issuers have dealt unfairly with consumer and business borrowers," Boyle testified. "Banks have not been responsive to the reduction in the cost of money."

Bankers told the committee they already were losing money on issuing credit cards at 21 percent interest.

"Five years ago, we were making money in this business," said Lamar Ball, president of Southwest Bancshares in Fort Worth. "In the ensuing four years since then, our cost of funds has escalated. Losses are substantial in this business."

But the banks' plight met with little sympathy from committee Chairman Bill Coody, D-Weatherford, sponsor of several of the proposed bills.

"I too wept at the fact that for five years you people lost this money," Coody told Ball. "I could hardly sleep last night."

New president speaks on 'Today' Begin rejects calls for elections

United Press International
TEL AVIV, Israel — Prime Minister Menachem Begin rejected demands for new elections because of Chaim Herzog's surprise election as Israel's president over Begin's hand-picked candidate, Israel Radio said Wednesday.

Herzog, a former U.N. ambassador, was elected Israel's sixth president Tuesday in a startling parliamentary victory over the coalition candidate, Justice Menachem Elon, Begin's personal choice.

Herzog assumes the largely ceremonial post in May from President

Yitzhak Navon, who belonged to the Labor Party before taking office. Navon, however, was supported by the Likud coalition as a national unity candidate.

The loss prompted several members of Begin's governing Likud bloc to demand that the prime minister dissolve the coalition and call new elections.

Herzog, appearing Wednesday on NBC's "Today" program, said he will work to "bridge the gap between the ethnic elements in the Jewish society, between the community in Israel and

the Jewish community throughout the world."

He also said progress is being made in the negotiations to withdraw Israel's 30,000 troops from Lebanon.

"My gut feeling is that we are moving towards some form of accommodation in Lebanon," Herzog said.

But Herzog said he expects that the U.S. Marines serving in the Beirut peace-keeping force may have to stay a very long time if they want to bring peace to Lebanon.

Israel Radio said the demands for new elections came at a meeting of the Likud parliamentary faction later in

the day but promptly were rebuffed by Begin, who said new elections would be ill-advised.

Instead, Begin urged party colleagues to congratulate Herzog on his election as he had done earlier in the day.

Other Likud members found it hard to live down the defeat. Roni Milo promptly resigned as chairman of the Likud's parliamentary caucus saying he could no longer trust his coalition partners.

Herzog, 64, has led a colorful career as a soldier, writer and diplomat in the past four decades.

Reagan calls for new superweapon

United Press International
WASHINGTON — President Reagan is calling on the nation's scientists to "turn their great talents to the cause of mankind" by developing a Buck Rogers-like superweapon to make nuclear war obsolete by the year 2000.

Reagan unveiled "a decision which offers a new hope for our children in the 21st century" during a half-hour broadcast speech Wednesday, in-

tended to drum up support for his embattled defense policies.

Although the speech had been planned for some time, Reagan hit the airwaves just 30 minutes after being dealt a stinging defeat when the House approved a Democratic budget plan that would slash his defense spending increase.

Reagan also hinted he will stake out a new position next week for the current negotiations on intermediate-

range nuclear missiles in Europe.

With his attention so riveted on immediate political concerns, Reagan provided an interesting twist by ending with what aides billed as "a dramatic, new initiative" that may not come to fruition for decades.

Termining arms reductions only a partial step toward removing the threat of war, Reagan announced a crash effort "to define a long-term research and development program" on a weapon capable of destroying attacking nuclear missiles.

"What if free people could live secure in the knowledge that their security did not rest upon the threat of instant U.S. retaliation to deter a Soviet attack; that we could intercept and destroy strategic ballistic missiles before they reached our own soil or that of our allies?" he asked.

"I call upon the scientific community in our country who gave us nuclear weapons to turn their great talents to the cause of mankind and world peace — to give us the means of rendering these nuclear weapons impotent and obsolete," he said.

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A&M economics department 14th in nation for articles

by Kathy Wiesepape
 Battalion Staff

The Texas A&M Department of Economics has the 14th most published faculty in the nation, the American Economic Review reported in its December issue.

From 1974 to 1978, faculty members in the economics department published an average of more than 25 pages each, giving Texas A&M the highest ranking for any Texas university.

Other Southwest Conference universities mentioned in the survey were: the University of Houston, 27th; Rice University, 32nd; University of Texas, 39th; Southern Methodist University, 43rd; and Texas Tech University, 167th.

John Moroney, head of the economics department, said the American Economic Review bases its statistics on articles published in the 24 most prestigious economics journals in the nation.

Moroney said the research pre-

sented in these journals is "scrupulously refereed." In other words, he said, experts closely examine the facts in an article submitted for publication to verify its accuracy.

Because of this, Moroney said, the amount of material Texas A&M faculty members have produced is especially significant.

"It indicates the immense research productivity of the faculty here," Moroney said. "Our faculty has made a significant contribution to research in economics."

Despite its small size, the economics department is as well-known nationwide as many of the larger colleges at Texas A&M, he said.

"The College of Liberal Arts doesn't receive as much recognition as it deserves," he said. "The agricultural, veterinary medicine and engineering programs are the mainstays of the academic community here at A&M."

Moroney said he hopes that will

change. To reach the status of a world university, he said, Texas A&M will have to place a greater emphasis on the liberal arts.

Besides being well-known for its research, Moroney said, the economics department stresses consistent excellence in teaching. He said the department has had great success in placing students who have received doctoral degrees at Texas A&M in positions at prestigious universities.

Moroney said it's hard to compare this aspect of the department with other universities and even other colleges within Texas A&M, but he thinks the department would compare favorably.

The University of Texas recruits more top-notch students for their liberal arts programs, Moroney said. "They have a tradition of strength in the liberal arts that we don't," he said, "and that tradition is the crucial factor. But I hope that that will be a fast-changing scene."

forecast

Cloudy to partly cloudy skies today with a high of 60. Partly cloudy tonight with a low near 44. Continued Partly cloudy skies Friday with a high near 69.