



# Dead?

## Last-minute coughing saves donor before donation could be made

**United Press International**  
LIBERTYVILLE, Ill. — A "dead man" who stunned nurses by coughing as they were preparing to take out his organs was in critical condition Thursday fighting for his life.

"He's improving. I'm a positive thinker. I'm hoping for a miracle," Genevieve Supergan, who had signed death certificate papers when her son was pronounced dead Monday, told the Chicago Sun-Times. "It is really frightening," she said.

Alan Supergan, 20, suffered massive brain injuries in a car accident in which he was charged with drunken driving. He was taken to Condell Memorial Hospital. Doctors told Supergan's family his situation was hopeless and the family ordered his life-support systems cut off and his organs donated. But Tuesday, as doctors and nurses prepared to remove Supergan's heart, kidneys and liver, he coughed. He was listed in critical condition Thursday.

It was the second time in the same day organ donor surgery was halted by signs of life. Doctors at a Memphis, Tenn., hospital canceled surgery to remove a "dead" man's liver when his feet started twitching involuntarily. The patient, who had been in a car accident, was declared dead nine hours before surgery at the University of Tennessee's Howard F. Bowld Hospital began.

"This is an extremely fluky and rare event," said Gary Hall, organ transplant coordinator at the Tennessee hospital. Supergan's parents were already planning his funeral and the Lake County coroner had listed him as dead of injuries suffered in a one-car accident Feb. 2.

Dr. Meneleo Avila, a neurosurgeon, said Supergan showed no brain function or response to pain and that his pupils were dilated when he was examined Monday afternoon. Avila said he told Supergan's family the situation was hope-

less and the family had been making funeral arrangements. "Can you imagine being in a funeral parlor picking out a casket and then finding out the man is still alive?" asked his wife, Amy. Avila said nurses were preparing Supergan for organ removal surgery about 12:30 Tuesday and were using a scalpel on his trachea when he started to have evidence of some reflex.

"They stopped everything and called me," he said. "I then he has improved a little more. He now moves. It's a flex move but movement nonetheless."

Police said Supergan was driving through a stop sign and a tree. He was charged with drunken driving, transportation of open alcohol, refusal to stop sign and driving with a valid auto registration. Supergan has been in a hospital since.

# Officials destroy 25 tons of marijuana

**United Press International**  
BROWNSVILLE — Drug Enforcement Administration agents Thursday burned 25 tons of marijuana and interrogated 14 Colombians and Hondurans who were arrested as the Coast Guard seized the 75-foot ship Lady Mar earlier this week.

The pot, valued at \$20 million by the DEA, were set afire at the city landfill inside a locked fence at the Port of Brownsville.

Meantime, a spokesman for the U.S. Customs said the Lady Mar, which rammed the Coast Guard cutter Durable during a 22-hour chase in the Gulf of Mexico off the Mexican Yucatan Peninsula last Saturday and Sunday, would be seized by the government.

DEA agents continued to grill the suspects, trying to determine which one of them falsely reported that the ship, a

oyster fishing boat, was empty when first confronted by the Coast Guard cutter.

The vessel originally radioed that it was registered at Roatan, Honduras, but investigators said the Honduran government disputed the claim and gave permission for the Coast Guard to board the vessel.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Harry Lee Hall said Thursday the DEA was continuing its investigation into the registry and ownership of the boat and marijuana.

DEA agents said the suspects probably would be charged with possession with intent to distribute the marijuana.

They were being processed by Immigration and Naturalization Service officials and then will be booked into the Cameron County Jail, U.S. customs spokesman Juquin Legarreta said.

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# US could do more to aid Mexican crisis, prof says

**United Press International**  
SAN ANTONIO — The United States could do more to help Mexico through its present economic crisis by understanding the problems the country is

going through, a political science professor Thursday told members of the Texas Daily Newspaper Association. Dr. Gabriel Szekely of the Center of International Studies, College of Mexico, called on Texas newspaper editors and publishers to increase their understanding of Mexico's political and economic situation "from a Mexican point of view" and not to judge the country "by American standards."

"The United States could help Mexico develop industrially," he said. "But it will take a great deal of patience on the part of Americans and a realization that reforms in Mexico and throughout Third World countries are slow in coming." A panel discussion which included Szekely, Dr. Edmundo Flores, economist, and Dr. Carlos Bosch, concluded in San Antonio Thursday. The seminar continues Friday in Mexico City with a talk by Carlos Salinas de Gortari, minister of program and budget, and an interview with President Miguel de la Madrid.

Szekely said Mexico needs American investors to help Mexican industry become more competitive in the U.S. market.

The political science professor and research scholar said one of the areas most misunderstood by Americans is the positive role played by illegal aliens who are crossing into the United States in record num-

bers from Mexico and other Latin American countries. "Migrants who leave Mexico to seek employment in the United States hurt our economy because they are workers we can not find jobs in Mexico," Szekely said. "But they have a positive role because all workers who are in the United States, legally or illegally, are needed dollars back home helping our economy."

Szekely said U.S. aid in developing industry help Mexico overcome its present economic problems, which include a foreign debt of \$80 billion to \$100 billion, an 80 percent inflation rate and chronic unemployment and underemployment. "The United States, through the international banking community and the International Monetary Fund, is also proving to be a friend of Mexico by helping us with our problems," he said, adding officials of the IMF and Mexico are succeeding in the tertiary program.

Unemployment is a major problem and the rate of unemployment, those who work less than the minimum wage work only part time, has increased to 45 percent. "This year Mexico will cut the inflation rate from 40 percent," Szekely said. "The process of austerity will be so severe that the people will suffer. In Mexico we will sign our own suicide note."

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# Transplant patient's condition better

**United Press International**  
MEMPHIS, Tenn. — Three-year-old Jonathan Lehman of Irving, Texas, who underwent a liver transplant Feb. 3, was upgraded to serious condition Thursday and may be moved out of the intensive care unit, a hospital spokesman said. "He's been doing extremely well," said Scott Kent, spokesman for LeBonheur Children's Medical Center. "He's eating light foods. Hopefully progress continues, he will be moved out of intensive care today."

Meanwhile, double-transplant patient Megan of South Daytona, Fla., slipped into very critical condition Kent said. The 8-year-old girl has been plagued by infection since her first liver transplant Dec. 11.

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