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Warped

by Scott McCullar



Ex-pilot says Delta crash nearly impossible to avoid

Associated Press
IRVING — A former Lockheed engineering pilot said Thursday that few pilots could have pulled out of the turbulent wind conditions that contributed to the Aug. 2 crash of a Delta jet that killed 137 people. But that was just one opinion in the battle of the experts in a courtroom-like atmosphere at the National Transportation Safety Board hearings focusing on the Delta crash. Thursday's testimony came from a parade of technical experts, some of whom disagreed over how much the pilot could have done to avoid the crash, in which the plane struck a car and a water tank before smash-

ing down at Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport. William Smith, who retired from Lockheed last year and now is working for an insurance company investigating the crash, said, "This pilot was a very busy man" who had a violent ride in the windstorm. "It's highly unlikely many pilots" could successfully pull out of the updrafts and downdrafts that plagued the plane in its final seconds, said Smith, who had a 30-year working relationship with Delta Air Lines as a Lockheed representative. But in an interview outside the hearing, Richard Bray, an aerospace engineer for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, char-

acterized Smith's comment as "purely speculative." He said that data indicates the pilot might have been able to avoid the crash. Bray said two pullouts were attempted, both in the last six seconds. He said data showed "the aircraft would have missed the ground" if the pilot had sustained the first pullup. He said it was attempted when the plane was about 300 feet above the ground. Smith, a World War II Navy pilot who said he had flown through typhoons, agreed it was technically possible the L-1011 could have been pulled out of the situation.

Changing technology causing job-hopping

Associated Press
AUSTIN — The director of the Bureau of Business Research at the University of Texas said Thursday that today's young people may have to change job careers three or four times to keep up with changing technology. Dr. Victor Arnold addressed the Select Committee on Higher Education on what committee chairman Larry Temple said was an attempt to look at where the state will be by the year 2000. "With the increased rate of technology change, it's not unlikely or unrealistic to say that the young people you educate today and the young people you educate tomorrow as likely as not will have to change careers three or four times during their lifetime," Arnold said. He said that a computer analyst graduate of UT-Austin could be a technological "dinosaur" two years from now. "I suggest to your graduates of today, graduates of tomorrow will need an education that prepares them to operate and function in an international environment, an edu-

cation that combines the sciences with the skills and the insights of the liberal arts," Arnold said. Dr. Kenneth Margerison, president of the Texas Faculty Association, urged the committee not to limit its search to only "superstar" faculty members. "Even castles in the air need a solid foundation," Margerison said in a statement. Margerison, a history professor at Southwest Texas State University, said the faculty association "believes the most pressing issue concerning the quality of education is the increasing use of part-time and temporary faculty, the growing dependence upon a cadre of lowly paid, poorly used, and increasingly alienated faculty to teach basic courses." He urged the special committee to consider stronger support for junior colleges, remedial instruction in colleges, better teacher preparation programs, increased recruitment of women, blacks and Hispanics as faculty members and greater financial aid for needy and minority students.

Student book awards to be given today

The awards ceremony for the Student Book Collectors' Contest will be held today at 2 p.m. at 204C Sterling C. Evans Library at Texas A&M. Dr. Arnold Kramer, professor of history at Texas A&M will give a speech titled "Who Burned the Books?" at the ceremony. The 13th Annual Student Book Collectors' Contest winners will be announced at the ceremony after Kramer's speech. Kramer, a noted specialist in the history of Nazi Germany, is the author of the recently-published book, "Hitler's Last Soldier in America." More than \$1,000 will be presented to five students whose book collections are judged as the most outstanding among the entries. The Friends of the Sterling C. Evans Library sponsors the contest to promote interest in the library among students, faculty and staff.

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