

State and Local

Aggie survivor of car crash dies of pneumonia Monday

By Sondra Pickard
Senior Staff Writer

A Texas A&M student who was seriously injured in a car accident in Bryan three months ago died of pneumonia around noon Monday at St. Joseph Hospital.

Richard N. Walker, 22, of 3817 Holly in Bryan, was one of two survivors when a car carrying six A&M students collided with an eighteen-wheeler near the intersection of Highway 21 and FM 2818 on March 9.

Walker, an A&M senior, was listed in critical condition after the accident, but was released from the hospital several months ago. He was readmitted to the hospital last week and died of pneumonia resulting from his injuries.

Glenn M. Butterly, a freshman from Fort Worth, was the other survivor. He was discharged from St. Joseph shortly thereafter.

Killed in the accident were Arthur J. Strom, a freshman from Dallas; John L. Thornton, a sophomore from College Station; David R. Hedegard, a sophomore from Tomball; and Mitchell Smithwick, a sophomore from



Richard N. Walker

College Station.

Walker is survived by his parents, Dr. and Mrs. Robert L. Walker of Bryan; two brothers, Sidney Allen Walker and William Lawrence Walker; and a sister, Rebecca Lynn Walker of Dallas. Dr. Robert Walker is vice president for development at A&M.

A memorial service for Walker will be held Wednesday at 2 p.m. at the A&M Church of Christ in College Station.

Contributions in Walker's memory can be made to the School of World Evangelism Fund, care of the A&M Church of Christ, or the Texas A&M Development Foundation.

Continental's plan to pay off debts passed by judge

HOUSTON (AP) — A federal bankruptcy judge approved a \$925 million plan Monday that will allow Continental Airlines to emerge from bankruptcy protection in 60 days.

"It feels terrific," Continental President Phil Bakes said after Judge T. Glover Roberts approved the plan to pay back almost 30,000 creditors. "It feels great."

The plan calls for Houston-based Continental to pay about 30 banks paying \$115.4 million in unsecured claims and \$50.6 million in employee claims.

Continental also will pay American Airlines \$50,000 in cash within five business days.

American originally filed an indebtedness claim of \$470,383.

Other payments include \$23.7 million to Swissair and \$1.3 million to the Bank of Hawaii.

Continental will make an initial cash payment of \$142 million in 60 days.

It will then follow with installment payments to some over the next 10

years with interest, Continental spokesman Bruce Hicks said.

Continental filed for reorganization under Chapter 11 of the U.S. Bankruptcy Code on Sept. 24, 1983, saying it was losing \$1 million a day and was approximately \$1 billion in debt.

At the time of its Chapter 11 filing, Continental owed \$657.8 million in secured debts, \$352.7 million in unsecured debts and \$18.4 million of accrued interest.

The carrier has been paying principal and interest on about 45 percent of its long-term debt, officials said.

Under the reorganization plan submitted last September, the airline would pay up to \$200 million of its debt within 30 days of confirmation.

But the plan approved by Roberts allows the airline to make its initial cash payment in 60 days.

Attorneys will meet again Tuesday to discuss the distribution of \$15 million in outstanding issues, including attorney's fees.



Photo by Larry Crumbley

Good Bull

Dr. Larry Crumbley, an A&M accounting professor, took this picture of Rev. Simon Stefanowicz giving the "gig 'em" sign in Jasna Gora, Poland (near Krakow). Crumbley participated in an international study tour sponsored by the University of Texas at San Antonio.

Sister city could boost Midland's economy

MIDLAND (AP) — Dongying, Midland's Chinese sister city, could be the key to boosting this West Texas city's economy, once fueled by a healthy petroleum industry and now feeling the crunch of the oil price slump.

Thirty Midland representatives, including Mayor Carroll Thomas, traveled to China June 13.

Although no specific business deals were struck, Thomas and his Dongying counterpart, Tang Sheng-hai, signed a general agreement to exchange oil and gas technology and a list of products and services each city can provide.

"We see tremendous potential there," said Thomas, who returned

with part of the traveling group Sunday night.

Dongying, with a population of 1.6 million that makes it about 15 times larger than Midland, is on the eastern part of the People's Republic of China, some 200 miles south of Beijing and less than 50 miles from the coast.

Thomas said, "It is flat and dusty, like Midland, and both economies are oil-based. I think we're perfectly matched."

Dongying is on the Shengli oil field, China's second largest, which accounts for nearly a fourth of that country's petroleum production, said Richard Dunbar, who markets oil and chairs the Midland Chamber

of Commerce's International Affairs Committee.

The Permian Basin currently produces about 4-5 times as much oil as the Shengli oilfield, said spokesman Roger Dameron of Dameron Petroleum Corporation.

Dameron said he does not believe Midland and Dongying are competitors.

"They have a different approach to production because it's all under one ownership," said Dameron, who also manufactures equipment used in the oil industry. "Their technology needs improving. I'd say they're roughly 15 years behind."

Joan Baskin, president of the Midland Chamber of Commerce,

said, "We have invited them to the oil show in October and we hope they come to see the cutting edge of oil technology."

Two large refineries are being planned in the Shengli field, Dameron said.

"They work in five-year plans," said Thomas. "Their goal by the 1990s is to increase oil production by 50 percent. They have some areas that need development, so they'll be a market for oil equipment."

Donying, a growing city incorporated in 1983, also wants to sell its wares to the West, including textiles and agricultural products, Dameron said.

MSC Council approves plan for 1986-87 Broadway season

The Memorial Student Center Council Saturday approved recommendations regarding the 1986-87 Town Hall Broadway season and the Jordan Institute for International Awareness endowment.

MSC President Robert Bisor said Town Hall, which was forced to cancel its theatrical productions because of scheduling conflicts, presented its plan to bring club-style acts to Texas A&M as an alternative to the traditional season. Council ap-

proved the committee's plan to send a list of nine potential acts to season-ticket holders for feedback. Four of the acts will come to A&M.

Council gave the International Programs Committee responsibility for the administration of the Jordan endowment, established to increase student awareness of international cultures. Several specific criteria for the institution's implementation were approved, Bisor said.

45 deaths predicted for holiday

AUSTIN (AP) — Department of Public Safety officials are hopeful that traffic accidents over the Independence Day weekend will not erase a slight improvement in Texas' highway death rate.

DPS officials predict as many as 45 people will die in traffic accidents between 6 p.m. Thursday and midnight Sunday.

Last year, only 25 people died during a 30-hour holiday. Since July 4 fell on Thursday, many people had to be back at work on Friday. This year, there will be a 78-hour holiday period.

"The mixture of lower gasoline prices and increased travel this summer could prove to be deadly over the July 4 holiday," said Adams.

Adams noted this will be the first July 4 holiday since the Texas safety belt law became effective. He said 82 percent of those killed last year were not wearing a safety belt.

New space station project head named

CLEVELAND (AP) — Andrew J. Stofan, director of NASA's Lewis Research Center for the past four years, was named Monday to oversee the space agency's space station project.

As associate administrator for the space station, Stofan said he will head a staff in Washington to coordinate the development of the space station at five centers of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, including Lewis.

Lewis is developing the power sys-

tem for the manned space station. The Johnson Space Center in Houston had been leading the project.

Stofan, 51, said the new management structure was a result of the investigation into the explosion of the space shuttle Challenger in January. He said the Rogers commission criticized the decentralized management system used for the Challenger project.

"On the shuttle, the criticism there was that people were off doing their own thing, in a way keeping the

problems they came up with internally, to their own organizations, rather than having it out," he said.

One factor was the lack of a defined management framework, he said.

"The management structure being proposed for the space station will make that very, very clear," said Stofan. "It will be a strong management function located in Washington that will be totally responsible for the space station, so there will be no question about who has responsi-

bility, or what is the line of authority."

Stofan said he was offered the job last Friday by James C. Fletcher, NASA administrator, and accepted the position on Monday.

"It was a very difficult decision, in fact the most difficult decision I've had to make in my life," said Stofan.

Stofan began his NASA career as a research engineer at Lewis in 1958. In 1978, he was appointed deputy associate administrator for NASA headquarters in Washington. He

was named acting associate administrator for space science two years later. He returned to Lewis as director in 1982.

"I'm from northern Ohio, born and raised in this part of the country and so is my wife," said Stofan. "We came back home when we came back here to Lewis."

He said he liked his job at Lewis. "The job here is exciting, challenging and a very, very good job," he said. "To leave it is very difficult."

Panhandle receives takeover bid from oilmen

HOUSTON (AP) — Panhandle Eastern Corp. said Monday it received a \$2.25 billion takeover bid from West Texas oilmen Cyril Wagner Jr. and Jack E. Brown.

Panhandle, a diversified energy concern, said the \$50-a-share unsolicited proposal would be weighed by its directors "in due course." A meeting of the board had not yet been scheduled, Panhandle spokesman Stanford Wallace said.

Wagner and Brown's wholly-owned partnership, Star Partners,

offered to acquire each of Panhandle's 44.9 million common shares outstanding for \$30 cash and preferred stock designed to have a current market value of \$20, Panhandle said.

Grant Billingsley, a spokesman for Wagner and Brown in Midland, Texas, declined to elaborate on the offer.

The acquisition bid confirmed speculation on Wall Street last week that Panhandle was a takeover target and that Wagner and Brown were

among the likely suitors. The rumors had sent the price of Panhandle's stock sharply higher in heavy trading.

But Panhandle's common stock slipped 37½ cents a share to \$48.12½ in New York Stock Exchange composite trading after the offer was announced. Trading remained heavy with 2.65 million shares changing hands.

Wallace said Panhandle's management believed that Wagner and Brown already had acquired some of

the company's shares, but that the size of the stake was not known.

If Wagner and Brown bought 5 percent or more of Panhandle's stock, they would be required to disclose their interest to the Securities and Exchange Commission within 10 days of reaching that threshold.

Wall Street speculation that oilman T. Boone Pickens Jr. might join with Wagner and Brown to acquire Panhandle turned out to be wrong.

Pickens, the well-known corporate suitor who heads Mesa Limited Partnership, an Amarillo, Texas-based

energy partnership, had teamed up with Wagner and Brown on some previous takeover attempts.

But neither Pickens, Mesa Limited nor Mesa Petroleum Co., an energy company also headed by Pickens, are involved in the bid by Wagner and Brown for Panhandle, said David H. Batchelder, president of Mesa Petroleum.

The proposal by Wagner and Brown is the oilmen's latest attempt to purchase a major natural gas-transmission company.



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