## Company says defects were in pacemakers

AUSTIN (AP) — The Cordis Corp. pleaded guilty in federal court Wednesday to concealing defects in thousands of heart pacemakers, and four former executives were in-dicted for allegedly trying to cover up the problems.

The battery-powered pacemakers are implanted beneath the skin of heart patients to regulate heartbeat by electrical impulses.

Food and Drug Administration Commissioner Frank E. Young stressed that the defective pacemakers have long since been the subject of notifications to physicians, and are no longer on the market.

"Basically the defects were the sudden loss of the ability to control the heartbeat — the pacemakers were not pacing," said Diane Cossin, spokesman for the U.S. Attorney's

The problems affected "thousands" of pacemakers sold from 1980 to 1985, according to the indictment, which gave no precise fig-

A statement released by Assistant Attorney General John R. Bolton, head of the Justice Department's civil division in Washington, and by interim Miami U.S. Attorney Dexter Lehtinen, called the case "the most significant felony prosecution to date" under the 1976 Medical Device Amendments to the FDA law.

## Man fights lender for hotel rights

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — It was a cold November day in 1966 when attorney and expectant-father Patrick Kennedy looked out a downtown hospital window toward the vacant grounds of his alma mater, St. Mary's University School of Law.

The international exposition HemisFair was two years away and Kennedy knew the city needed hotel rooms in the tourist area. So as his daughter was being delivered, Kennedy devised a plan to turn the Colonial Spanish-style campus into a luxury hotel with a view of the River

Kennedy's gamble in what became La Mansion del Rio paid off. Tourists crowded into the hotel when it

"My biggest problem with this case is trying to understand why a company with over \$100 billion worth of assets and 100 years of reputable business dealings would stoop to this practice, and that is the reason I am willing to go through with this lawsuit."

— Patrick Kennedy

opened in April 1968 and have kept hotel management subsidiary. coming since then.

Today, Kennedy is fighting for survival and claiming that one of his lenders, Metropolitan Life Insurance Co., backed him into a financial corner to steal his hotels for its own

It's a lawsuit the hotel industry is watching carefully.

Kennedy's attorneys say his \$7 billion lawsuit against Metropolitan could be a test case because it

moves, conspired to become a direct competitor with its borrower. "My biggest problem with this case is trying to understand why a company with over \$100 billion worth of assets and 100 years of reputable business dealings would stoop to this practice, and that is the reason I am willing to go through with this lawsuit," Kennedy said recently.

Metropolitan officials deny any wrongdoing and say the case is a simple contractual agreement that Kennedy broke by not paying his bills on time.

"I think you are seeing an absolute desperation move," said Metropolitan's San Antonio attorney, Seationwide effort.

gal V. Wheatley. "I think to was to try to put the blame where other than where it re

longed.
"What you have is a straight ward loan met breeche agreement with Mr. Kem. Wheatley said. "He's thrabankruptcy and this suit ma

way to try to avoid that, but he's pushed way too far an very reputable company." Kennedy's lawsuit charges politan with fraud, duress, ence, deceptive trade pr breach of confidential relation unfair dealing and conspi what he claims was a concern

## Dallas hospital handles crash victims

nearest to Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport, received most of the injured when Delta Flight 1141 crashed Wednesday, killing

And hospital officials said the grim lessons from another Delta crash helped them prepare better for this one.

On Aug. 2, 1985, a Delta jumbo jet crashed at the airport in a driving thunderstorm, killing 137 people.

the National Transportation Safety Board criticized the disaster response, saying no coordinated effort was in place to handle the

"There was a lot of preparation done be-cause of the last one," said Michael Muncy, a lab technician at the 314-bed Harris Methodist. "Everyone was right in place. There was no wasted motion. We knew just what to do.

"The patients were great, too. They were in incredibly good shape. I guess the shock will come later for them. They went through

Other hospitals also reported the handling

Parkland Memorial Hospital reported having beefed its staff up to between 75 and 80 doctors by the time the first crash victims ar-

Esther Bauer, a Parkland spokeswoman, said during the Delta 191 crash, too many people were getting in the way. Since that crash, the hospital conducts at least two emer-gency drills each year.

"It (the emergency plan) just needed a little fine tuning in terms of getting the right peo-ple in formed and knowing where to be and so

Joe Dealey Jr., a spokesman for the airport,

chaos that persisted when Delta 191 or Wednesday's crash occurred amid weather conditions.

'We're dealing with a different is crash," he said.

"There's no comparison," added (a Taylor, of the Texas Department of a Safety station at the airport. "Everything so smoothly.

Dan Walker, 40, a veteranerian from las, thought he was going on a fishing Montana, but instead, he nursed broke as he left the emergency room.

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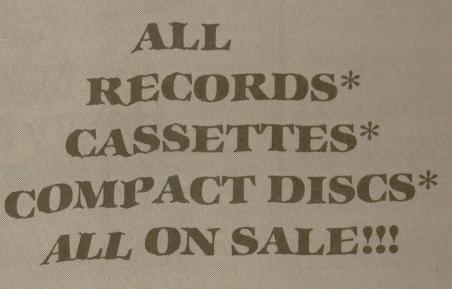
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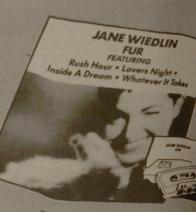
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