

STATE AND LOCAL

Jury foreman parachutes from tower

Associated Press

MISSOURI CITY — A 29-year-old man dressed in a gorilla suit Monday and parachuted from a broadcast tower.

Donald W. Trest, was the foreman of a jury that awarded \$19 million to the families of five ironworkers, who were killed in the collapse of the 2,000 foot structure.

He was arrested at about 9:30 a.m. by Fort Bend County sheriff's deputies and charged with criminal trespass, Lt. T. Milton Ray said. He was released after posting \$1,000 bond.

Trest opened his parachute and jumped at about 50 feet from the top of the tower, Ray said.

Trest said he climbed the tower for publicity and because he was curious about how it felt to fall from the tower.

The five ironworkers, who were killed in the collapse of the tower, were strapped to the tower antenna, which was to be hoisted to the top. The workers fell 1,500 feet to their deaths. Their survivors filed a lawsuit over the incident.

Trest and the other jurors watched videotapes of the collapse during the federal trial of the suit. He said that as a skydiver, he could just imagine how those men felt.

He said a local advertisement depicts an ape climbing the Transco tower, similar to King Kong on the Empire State Building.

The jury assessed the award against Stainless Inc. of North Wales, Pa., the company that was the general contractor at the project and manufacturer of the radio and television tower. Last week, a judge reduced the award to \$14 million.

In November, Trest donned a Peter Pan costume, climbed to the top of the Astrodome and unfurled a banner that read: "With Michael Jackson's Help, We Can Beat It — Cancer."



Photo by Anthony S. Casper

Mental Solitude

The statue "The Graduate" provides a quiet study area for Rick Sambucini, a sophomore electrical engineering major from San Antonio.

Food Services accepts MSC Council's leftovers

By JENS B. KOEPKE  
Staff Writer

The 36th Memorial Student Center Council transferred the authority to prepare food in Rumours to the Food Services Department at its first regular meeting Monday night.

The council also established a process for the literary magazine, "Litmus," to deal with objectionable material in the future.

Robert Hawkins, executive vice president for administration, said the council will continue to set policies such as scheduling for Rumours.

Food Services agreed to several conditions for the transfer:  
• Renovation and redecoration of the Rumours area, including improvement of the acoustics and the provision for a large-screen television.

• Creation of the Rumours Advisory Board, appointed by the council, which will provide input on food selection, hours, pricing, style of service and other aspects of operations.

• Retention of existing student workers and the present Rumours manager.

But Food Services denied the installation of a salad bar due to lack of

space and cost of maintenance. The council decided to divest itself of Rumours, Hawkins said, because it was losing money and was beginning to have problems meeting health standards.

A transition date has not been set, Hawkins said, but transfer will probably take place at the end of July.

The new process for the MSC Literary Arts Committee came as a reaction to the furor created by the submission of a poem with a questionable word in this year's edition of "Litmus."

The poem was voluntarily submitted to the council for approval by the Literary Arts Committee, said Robert Bisor, vice president for cultural programs. But council members said they wanted to be certain they had a process that would allow decisions to be made at a lower level.

The committee's lower boards must now mark the submissions as questionable along with a written justification of the work's literary merits before passing it on to the committee's upper board.

If accepted for publication by the upper board, the pieces will be reviewed by a special committee. After deliberations, the vice president for

cultural programming will decide whether the material will go before the council for approval.

"I don't think it's going to be censorship at all — it will give the council some direction in dealing with questionable material," Bisor said.

In other business, Jill Thrash, vice president for development, said the development committee inaugurated a new drive to raise \$6 million worth of endowments for use in general programming, lectures, leadership development, international travel, performing and visual arts.

The \$6 million goal was set by the Enrichment Fund Board in 1981 to meet the long-range needs of the MSC, said James Reynolds, director of the MSC. The Board is composed of 24 former students, three faculty members, two MSC staff members and five MSC Council officers.

The Enrichment Board had spent so much time in the past few years helping committees raise money for annual operating costs, that they made little headway in reaching their endowment goals, he said.

"We are poised to cause these endowments to happen," Reynolds said.

Women leaders of MSC have positive outlook

By GIGI SHAMSY  
Reporter

"MSC Student Programs Office — Can I help you? You'll need to speak with MSC President Denis Davis. Hold please and I'll transfer you to her office — Yes, sir, her — Denis Davis is a woman."

Davis is one of 35 women who have recently been selected for leadership positions in the Memorial Student Center.

While Davis has been involved in MSC activities for four years, Jody Boarnett, the new chairman for MSC Opera and Performing Arts Society, says she joined the MSC only a year ago.

She said she assumed an executive position as OPAS' director of public relations when the former director resigned.

Boarnett promoted the performance of "Cinderella" though it had sluggish ticket sales.

Although the women in leadership positions have done well in their jobs, they may have to work even harder in their new positions.

Adviser Paul Strifolino said next year's female MSC president may have to work harder for acceptance when rubbing shoulders with past and present campus administrators.

But adviser Arlene Manthey, said she has witnessed a positive reaction to the large number of women appointed to leadership positions.

"A&M is catching up with the rest of the country as it reflects how the real world out there is," Manthey said.

Olga Perez-Garcia, the new chairwoman of MSC Hospitality, has appointed three male executive officers to assist her.

"Hospitality has always had the image of having more female members than male members," Perez-Garcia said, "but we have had very

capable male officers in the past and we expect increased male involvement from both non-regs and members of the Corps."

Michele Mobley, chairwoman of MSC Wiley Lecture Series, said she does not think former students will have a negative reaction to women in the MSC.

"They may be a little nervous at first because some of them attended Texas A&M when it was a male-dominated institution," Mobley said. "Hopefully, once they get to know us, they will see we're just as capable and knowledgeable as the male officers have been."

Linda Thomas, who was selected to chair SCONA 31, said she was expecting more opposition to her selection. Instead she said she received a lot of support.

MSC Director Jim Reynolds said that women and men are capable of equal performance in high-powered,

stressful leadership situations.

"I never have noticed any difference in the skills that males and females possess in this organization," he said. "The hard-working, solid and aggressive leaders get the same things done — regardless of sex."

Reynolds said it bothered him to see that women have had a limited level of participation in the MSC.

He said he believed that the average woman in the MSC is not inclined to be involved in higher leadership positions.

Instead, he says they choose to work in lower positions where they can see immediate and tangible results.

MSC Assistant Director Richard Reynolds said he doesn't foresee any resentment because of the trend in female leadership.

"We won't have people saying 'My God! The foundation of SCONA will shake with a woman as its lead-

er,'" Reynolds said.

Katie Shuman said she's not expecting any opposition or resentment because of her position as chairwoman of Political Forum.

Executive Vice-President for Administration Cory Courtney said:

"It was a shock because it has been about a fifty-fifty percentage of male to female involvement in the past. I don't think it will be a problem and, if it is a problem, it will be so for administrators and former students."

Courtney said he thinks Davis can exhibit the charm and personality needed to make the following year a success.

Davis said she doesn't expect a lot of criticism for her position.

"No one will balk at me for being a woman or for having stereotypical female strengths and weaknesses," she said. "However, many men do expect more from you if you are a woman in a top position."

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