

Texas A&M illustrator's artwork adorns medical building lobby

By Janice Riggs
Reporter

Dancing flamingos and a talking toucan inhabit the College of Medicine lobby.

The talented birds are the works of Helen J. Finney, an illustrator and drafter for the Texas A&M University Geology and Geophysics departments.

Finney's many different styles and techniques are reflected in her exhibit.

"I appear to be two artists in one," Finney said.

"On one end of the spectrum is my detailed fossil and specimen work," she said. "At the opposite end are my whimsical graphics."

Her scientific illustrations are an outgrowth of the English botanical etchings she studied while she learned to draw.

Finney chose botanical subjects because of her love and appreciation of nature.

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—Helen J. Finney, illustrator

"I guess I'm a closet scientist," Finney said, "but I don't really like the research and experimentation. I like the glamorous side — illustration."

Finney believes fossil and specimen reconstruction drawings make nice pieces of art and also contribute to the public's scientific knowledge.

"But don't get me wrong," Finney said. "I'm not trying to push science on the public. I draw so people can have fun and have something to look at."

Finney said she reveals her humorous side in many of her graphics. Birds are often her favorite subject for the large paper cutouts she does.

Finney said the pieces are an amusing way to experiment with color and shape.

"I don't try to portray social or political ideas with my work," Finney said. "Give people a break. For me, commercial art and graphics are just a gag. The funny thing is, the art I don't try my hardest on is usually the public's favorite."

Pam Hensley, information representative for the College of Medicine, said Finney's work has been enjoyed by students, faculty and the public because it is uncontroversial and has proved to have something for everyone.

"We had one art exhibit that raised some eyebrows," she said. "Helen Finney's has gone over real well."

In the last six months Finney has exhibited her work at many places including the Arts Council, Bryan, the MSC Gallery and the Brazos Arts Council.

Finney has received many awards for her work including second place and honorable mention in the 1986 Brazos Valley Art League Juried Show.

The lobby of the Medical Sciences Building is open to the public Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Finney's works will be on display until Sept. 30.

Judge moves hearing site due to 'atmosphere of fear'

CONROE (AP) — A state district judge, citing an atmosphere of fear in Montgomery County, broke legal ground Monday by moving the site of a hearing for Texas death row inmate Clarence Brandley.

Brandley, who turns 36 this week, is hoping new evidence will merit him a third trial on capital murder charges stemming from the 1980 rape-slaying of 16-year-old Cheryl Ferguson.

His case has triggered allegations of racial discrimination and demonstrations by supporters who insist the only reason he was convicted and sentenced to death was because he is black and the victim was white.

Defense attorneys, who succeeded in getting visiting judge Perry Pickett of Midland to preside at Monday's hearing, presented five witnesses who testified Brandley could not get a fair trial in the county directly north of Houston.

"There exists here a volatile explosive situation, not conducive to the fair administration of justice," Pickett said. "There seems to be an atmosphere of fear. The ends of justice dictate that this case be transferred to Galveston County."

Judge John Martin, who presided over Brandley's second trial in 1981. William Strack, who was the lone juror to vote for acquittal in Brandley's first trial in 1980, said he was bombarded with telephone calls to his home harassing him.

"I would say they would be in the thousands," he said. "One after another. Every five, 10, 15 seconds."

Speers said the atmosphere around the courthouse, where about 50 Brandley supporters slept outside overnight, was more likely to intimidate state witnesses. About 100 people, many wearing T-shirts and buttons that proclaimed their support for Brandley, jammed the courtroom and cheered as the judge announced his decision.

When Brandley arrived in court, they all stood in unison. Brandley was one of several janitors working at Conroe High School Aug. 23, 1980, when Ferguson was found raped and strangled.

Brandley's attorneys contend he was singled out because of his race.

Brookshire Police Chief Joe Garcia said his department filed an aggravated sexual assault charge against Monaghan.

Other charges are pending. State District Judge Frank Price on Monday ordered that Monaghan continue to be held without bond on the charges.

Monaghan is accused of abducting the doctor from her Houston home and taking her to a motel in nearby Brookshire where he allegedly assaulted her.

The 11-hour ordeal began Thursday night when the 32-year-old woman was abducted at gunpoint by a man who had posed as a doctor to get in the couple's home, police said.

Police said Monaghan apparently met the doctor when she was with the Texas Department of Corrections' health service division and he was serving 15 years of a 40-year term for sexually assaulting two women. He was released from prison July 18.

Police said the man tied up the husband, set fire to items in the house and fled with the woman. They said the husband managed to escape unharmed by breaking out a window and calling for help.

Police said that after driving around for hours with the woman in a Porsche 944, the man then took her to a Brookshire motel. He taped her wrists to a bedpost, but the woman managed to escape Friday morning when he left the room to get food, they said.

Newspaper for veterans suffers due to mix-up with other business

ARLINGTON (AP) — The owner of a newspaper that uses ad sales to help unemployed veterans complained that his business has suffered because of confusion with another, similarly-named operation.

Johnnie Jaynes founded the *Veterans News* four months ago to print veteran-related news and help jobless veterans.

However, he says, advertisers are confusing his business with the *Veterans News Digest*, which the U.S. Postal Service alleges has billed small businesses in several states for unsolicited ads that never ran in any publication.

"Business people thought it was me doing this and some have stopped placing ads," said Jaynes, who solicits contributions and \$10-\$20 ads to finance his newspaper. "Even though I do all I say I do, they are afraid that I could be bogus and lying."

The 28-year-old ex-Marine said he distributed 9,000 copies of the first edition on Sept. 10 for free, but the \$700 printing cost and food purchases for veterans consumed all the proceeds from ads.

"People are now reluctant to buy an ad," he said. "I'm being hurt and so are a lot of hungry veterans because of this other outfit."

The owner of *Veterans News Digest*, Paul Necessary

of Conyers, Ga., has been unavailable for comment since postal authorities won a court order on Sept. 10 temporarily stopping incoming mail to his Dallas mail-drop. His wife, however, said her husband has done nothing wrong.

The Postal Service initiated its investigation last month after Jaynes reported receiving numerous complaints contending that he had wrongly billed the businesses for ads. Jennifer Broussard, a Dallas postal inspector, said.

But Jaynes said the mistaken identity won't force him to give up a dream realized after years of thinking about ways to help fellow veterans.

Cookie Rogers, executive secretary for the newly formed Veterans Council of Tarrant County, said Jaynes tries to help anyone in need.

The Veterans Council, made up of veterans associations and organizations in Tarrant County, has endorsed Jaynes' newspaper, Rogers said. The paper also is a member of the council, she said.

"When people find out I'm for real, things will go better," said Jaynes, who plans to expand his upcoming December edition to 40,000 copies. "I'd be happy if I could make a \$200-a-week paycheck and use the rest of the money to give to veterans."

Police arrest ex-convict after assault

HOUSTON (AP) — An ex-convict was ordered held without bond Monday on charges of kidnapping and sexually assaulting a doctor whose husband was left bound inside their burning home.

Thomas Patrick Monaghan, 37, was charged Sunday with aggravated kidnapping, attempted capital murder, two counts of aggravated robbery and two counts of auto theft, police said.

Houston homicide detective Mike Kardatzke said the attempted capital murder charge stems from the house being set on fire with the husband inside.

Brookshire Police Chief Joe Garcia said his department filed an aggravated sexual assault charge against Monaghan.

Other charges are pending. State District Judge Frank Price on Monday ordered that Monaghan continue to be held without bond on the charges.

Monaghan is accused of abducting the doctor from her Houston home and taking her to a motel in nearby Brookshire where he allegedly assaulted her.

The 11-hour ordeal began Thursday night when the 32-year-old woman was abducted at gunpoint by a man who had posed as a doctor to get in the couple's home, police said.

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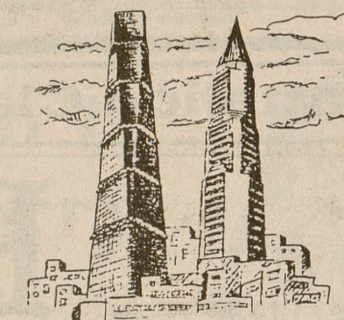
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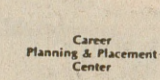
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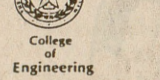
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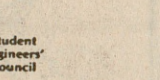


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