

## Jury selection process upheld, students still exempt from duty

Most University students will remain exempt from jury selection in the trial of Subramanyam Vedam, 21, charged with first-degree murder.

In a decision made yesterday, Centre County Judge Charles C. Brown Jr. upheld the county's current selection process saying there was no evidence that students had been systematically excluded from jury duty.

Defense Attorney Amos Goodall argued Friday that the selection process based on a February 1982 list for January 1983 excludes students and young people from jury duty. He said by the time students receive a summons to appear for possible jury duty, they have either graduated and moved out of the area.

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—by George Mattar

Most University students compose about 14 percent of Centre County's 88,000 citizens eligible to register for jury duty. Of this 14 percent, Goodall said only five percent still live in the same address.

Also, yesterday Brown delayed his decision on granting bail for Vedam. In court last week, Brown said he will review the transcript of Vedam's preliminary hearing to determine if the prosecution presented a sufficient case in proving the existence of an aggravating factor.

Aggravating factors include, but are not limited to, killing by contract, death by means of torture and homicides committed in the course of a felony.

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## Panhel elects new officers

Delegates to the Panhellenic Council last night elected new executive officers for the positions of president, vice president, secretary and treasurer.

Ann Shaffer of Chi Omega sorority, who ran unopposed, was elected the new Panhel president.

"I'm looking forward to a great year as Panhel president," she said.

The biggest project before the council right now is preparing for expanded colonization, she said.

Current Panhel president Sherr Barson, who will be replaced by Shaffer in Spring Term, said the first step in the long process will be to prepare letters that will be sent to the nine national sororities not located on campus.

By the end of the process, only one sorority, if it is voted for by the council delegates, will start a colony at the University, Barson said.

The vice president was elected after a three-round vote

because of a tie in the first and second balloting rounds. Chosen as vice president was Debbie Spaulder of Sigma Delta Tau sorority, who will take over the duties of Jackie Nagney.

A second vote was also needed in the election for treasurer because of a tie in the first ballot. Lyne Pettef of Alpha Sigma Alpha sorority was elected the new treasurer. She will take over the position now held by Amy Klein.

Holly Allen of Delta Delta Delta sorority was elected secretary and will replace Ann Reinhard in that position. Nominations were reopened before each position was voted on but there were no last-minute nominees.

All the newly-elected officers will begin their terms in office the first week of Spring Term.

—by Michelle Carter

## Sky walks trial canceled

Hyatt hotel suit settled out of court for \$10 million

By MARK PETERSON  
Associated Press Writer

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — A federal trial aimed at finding out who was responsible for the collapse of sky walks at the Hyatt Regency Hotel was canceled yesterday after victims agreed to a \$10 million settlement.

The tentative agreement was reached Sunday night and announced yesterday as the class-action trial was about to begin. It provides a way of resolving the last six lawsuits remaining in federal court.

A few cases still are unresolved in state court, but none of those is expected to result in a trial over responsibility for the disaster.

"This was a very complex and involved case, and the fact that it is settled is a wonder in itself," said U.S. District Judge Scott O. Wright, who still has to approve the settlement, and scheduled a hearing for Jan. 11.

"This is one of the biggest, if not the biggest damage suit, that's ever been handled in this country," the judge said.

The collapse of the two sky walks onto the crowded lobby of the hotel July 17, 1981, killed 114 people and injured more than 200. It spawned lawsuits seeking a total of \$3 billion in damages.

The federal settlement is similar to one that has been approved in Jackson Circuit Court, where most of the sky walk suits were filed. About 1,200 people had collected nearly \$50 million by late last week under that settlement.

Under the agreement announced yesterday, the hotel owners would establish a \$3.5 million damage fund and make \$6.5 million in contributions to Kansas City agencies as a "healing gesture."

The designers and contractors had been named as defendants in the federal suit, but Hallmark Cards Inc. and its subsidiary, Crown Center Redevelopment Corp., which owns the hotel, accepted liability for actual damages as part of the settlement.

The National Bureau of Standards found that the collapse occurred because of a design change that altered the way the sky walks were suspended from the ceiling. No company has ever acknowledged ordering

the design change.

Most of the lawsuits filed in the case have been resolved through out-of-court settlements. The state cases generally involved victims from the Kansas City area, and the federal cases involved those from out of state.

Attorneys said about 20 people belonged to the federal class action and will be covered by the settlement. Six of those people had lawsuits pending, including one suit involving a death.

Wright announced the settlement in a courtroom packed with lawyers, reporters and prospective jurors.

The judge ordered lawyers not to discuss the settlement, and scheduled a hearing for Jan. 11.

A spokesman for Hallmark said the companies were pleased with the agreement.

"While the court has asked that details of the proposed settlement not be discussed until the final hearing, we are happy to endorse this agreement," Bill Johnson said. "It is the fruit of long and difficult negotiations."

Attorneys for the plaintiffs had pushed for a trial so that responsibility for the disaster could be established. The plaintiffs' attorneys did not answer yesterday when asked why they settled.

The settlement creates a fund of \$3.5 million for payment of awards equivalent to punitive damages. Only claimants awarded actual damages through arbitration or individual trials would be eligible for additional damages from that fund.

Plaintiffs who were not seriously hurt but suffered "emotional distress" by witnessing the disaster are entitled to a \$1,000 payment after waiving any further claims against defendants.

Hallmark agreed that over the next few years it would contribute to such Kansas City agencies as the Truman Medical Center Medical Foundation, the city's weathering program and the Kansas City Zoo.

"Hallmark makes these contributions as a healing gesture to help Kansas City to put the tragedy of the sky walk collapse behind it," a summary of the settlement said. "These contributions are neither an admission of any fault nor a punishment."

## collegian notes

- The Paul Robeson Cultural Center will show the movie Roots at 7:30 tonight in the Walnut Building.
  - Stephen Dunn, professor of creative writing at Stockton State College, N.J., will read his poetry at 3:45 this afternoon in the Rare Book Room of Patten.
  - The Science Fiction Society will meet at 7 tonight in 307 Boucke.
  - Al-Anon will meet at 7 tonight in 135 Boucke.
  - The Nursing Consultation Center will sponsor a learn-to-relax program at 3:30 this afternoon in E102 Henderson Human Development Building.
  - The Society of Physics Students will meet at 6:30 tonight in 116 Osmond. Don N. Page will speak at 7 on general relativity.
  - Free University will sponsor a vegetarian cooking course at 6 tonight in 351 and 358 Willard.
  - The Equestrian Club will meet at 7:30 tonight in 206 Agricultural Engineering Building.
  - Teresa Inez Bolden, 1000 Plaza Drive, told the State College Police Department that her vehicle was damaged while parked in the Logan House Apartment complex's west lot. The incident occurred sometime early Saturday night or Sunday morning. Damage was estimated at \$600, police said.
- by Karen Kano

## Alumni group names director

By MARCY MERMEL  
Collegian Staff Writer

For the first time, the executive director of the University's Alumni Association Executive Board will not be a Penn State alumnus. However, William J. Rothwell does not believe he should be judged solely by his alma mater.

The new executive director, who was elected by the board Saturday, said he believes his professional record indicates he is qualified for the job. Rothwell is now the executive director of the Alumni Association of the University of New Hampshire.

Rothwell, who will become the director in March, said he finds Penn State "an outstanding academic institution (that) has a national and international reputation for excellence."

He said the University will give him the opportunity to go with a well-established alumni program. He said his goal as director would be to do everything possible to help the program to continue to grow until it "hopefully becomes the best alumni association in the country." The association is already among the best in the nation, he said.

Programs at the University of New Hampshire that Rothwell said could be implemented at Penn State include a distinguished teaching award.

Rothwell said he would also like to see faculty members and students become more involved in the Alumni Association. If students have positive experiences with their teachers they will remember the University in a better light, he said.

And if students become involved in the association before they graduate they will be more likely to become members, he said. The Alumni Association has about 60,000 members.

Current Executive Director Ross B. Lehman, who will retire in March, said, "I think the alumni association is always trying to keep pace with the affairs of the University community."

Because the University's graduating classes are becoming larger, the association will have to adjust to a younger membership, he said. An average of one in every 100 Pennsylvanians has graduated from Penn State.

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**EDUCATION**  
1981-1983 The Pennsylvania State University, University Park, Pa. Candidate for the degree of Master of Business Administration. Marketing emphasis, expected date of graduation: March, 1983.  
1975-1979 The Pennsylvania State University, University Park, Pa. Bachelor of Arts degree, Advertising, 1979. President of Internship, The American Philatelic Society. Designed and distributed State Basketball Program, sold at home basketball games.

**EXPERIENCE**  
September, 1981 to present The Pennsylvania State University, University Park, Pa. Presently working 10-20 hours per week at Department of Biology orders, posting responses for invoice processing, reconciling invoices and streamlined order and invoice processing.  
June, 1980 to September, 1981 Strawbridge & Clothier, Philadelphia, Pa. Wrote copy for newspaper, catalog, and division of Strawbridge & Clothier. Faced with buyers and vendors to develop and design special ads, coupon specifying type, correcting layout and copy errors.  
June, 1979 to June, 1980 The Wharton School, Philadelphia, Pa. Scheduling Assistant and resume circulation. Scheduled student interviews, solved interview scheduling problems. Helped design and circulation system. (1980)  
Eagle Scout. Received National Merit Scholarship Letter of Commendation. Captained intramural soccer team to finals. Enjoy running, weightlifting, soccer, writing.

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