

Skydivers experience rapture of the heights

By CAROLE FERGUSON
Staff Writer

I climbed out onto a little step on the side of the plane and held on to the wing. The wind seemed strong enough to blow a person off. It reminded me of a James Bond movie — only instead of a tuxedo, I was wearing a jumpsuit, big boots and a heavy parachute.

Once I had gained my footing outside the plane, the hardest part was over, but I could still chicken out. The only things in sight on the ground were tiny trees, cars and dots that represented people 3,000 feet below.

In the plane, my jumpmaster nodded, so I let go. Sheer terror struck and, for a moment, I think I blacked out. I just fell backward and down. Then I looked up, relieved to see my parachute open safely above me. I was floating up in the sky, just hanging there enjoying the scenery.

A voice spoke to me — no, not from above — from the radio inside my helmet. "OK, you have a good canopy. Now release your toggles." Now it would be easy all the way down.

After making a safe landing and gathering up my gear, I kept thinking, "I jumped out of a plane," and, more importantly, "I lived to tell about it." My friends wouldn't hear the end of this for weeks.

It was October when I took my first jump at the Franklin County Sport Parachute Center, where members of the UNC Sport Parachute Club have been skydiving this fall. The airport, located about 50 miles northeast of Chapel Hill near Louisburg on Highway 56, is a year-round jumping spot for both beginners and experienced skydivers.

For some students, parachuting is a once-in-a-lifetime experience. "I just wanted to do it once or twice for the excitement," junior Holly Baker says. "I'm not worried as long as they pull my chute for me."

But others jump once and get hooked. "It's better the second time," junior Coleman Ross says. Ross has made three jumps since his first in October and plans to progress to what is called freefall.

Mike Treman, a third-year dental student, has helped reorganize the UNC Sport Parachute Club, a club which he says has been gaining interest around campus this semester. It meets about once a week and is trying to attract interested students.

Treman, who began parachuting 8 years ago as an undergraduate in Arizona, has made approximately 13,000 jumps. He says he got hooked because jumping "makes you feel like you can conquer the world." Treman jumps almost every weekend, usually working on formation jumps with other advanced parachutists.

Treman remembers feeling frightened during his first few jumps, but says that parachuting is all fun now. "It's not scary at all," he says.

Not even when you dive out of a plane in a clump of 50 fellow parachuters in a formation? We might wonder.

But beginning jumpers have to start with the basics. Before they go up in planes, novices must take an all-day class. Students are trained how to exit the aircraft, how to use correct emergency procedures and how to execute safe Parachute Landing Falls (PLF's).

In the PLF training, students jump off a platform into sawdust to simulate an actual landing. Some of the students hesitate to fall from the platform, and with good reason, as UNC junior Jeff Taber will testify. Taber landed shoulders-first and says he was sore for two weeks after the training.

After a rigorous day of training and nervous tension, students go up to jump. During the first five jumps, a static line attached to the plane automatically pulls the canopy open as soon as the student is in the air. After the initial five static line jumps,



Mike Treman arrives at the Franklin County Sport Parachute Center

the student can progress to freefall, pulling his own rip-cord.

Members of the parachute club get a \$20 discount on lessons. They cost \$125 and subsequent jumps cost \$25.

Students say the expense of the sport is often a problem, especially since most hesitate to ask their parents for help. None of the students asked had

even told their parents before they made their first jumps. Most seemed to agree that parents worry too much.

"I told my parents a few days later," Baker says. "They were so shocked and upset at first, but later they understood why I wanted to do it. But I'm not planning to tell them next time either."

Campus Calendar

The DTH Campus Calendar appears daily. Announcements must be placed in the box outside The Daily Tar Heel office, 104 Union, by noon one day before — weekend announcements by noon Wednesday. The DTH will print announcements from University-recognized campus organizations only.

Thursday

- 12:15 p.m. The Ackland Art Museum will show the videotape, "Mud or Blood: Issues in Photojournalism."
- 3 p.m. Career Planning and Placement Services will hold a panel on internships in 226 Union.
- 3:30 p.m. Career Planning and Placement Services will hold an interviewing skills workshop in 210 Hanes.
- 4:30 p.m. Study Abroad will discuss study in Italy with UNC in 210 Union. Study Abroad will discuss study in Denmark with UNC in 205 Union. Study Abroad will discuss study in Latin America with UNC in 206 Union.
- 5:30 p.m. The Pre-Medical/Pre-Dental Advising Office will hold an interviewing skills workshop. Sign-up is at Steele, 2nd floor bulletin board.
- 5:45 p.m. Career Planning and Placement Services will sponsor a presentation by Morgan Stanley at the Carolina Inn. For seniors only.
- 6 p.m. The Presbyterian Campus Ministry will have an undergraduate dinner at 110 Henderson Street, to be followed by a presentation regarding the Oxfam fast.
- 7 p.m. Chimera will host Dr. Hal White to speak on "Man's Future in Space" in IA Swain. The UNC Outing Club will meet in the Union. Russian and East European Studies will host

Gerald Surh to speak on "The Working Class in St. Petersburg 1905" in 569 Hamilton.

The Association of Political Science Students and The Pre-Law Association will sponsor a Pre-Law Career Workshop in Toy Lounge, Dey Hall.

The Carolina Gay and Lesbian Association will hold a candlelight vigil in the pit to honor Harvey Milk. A biographical film will be shown at 7:30.

Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship will hold a campus chapter meeting with host David Chadwick to discuss the importance of prayer.

7:30 p.m. UNC Women's Basketball Club will meet to discuss Winter League competition in the Union. All interested newcomers welcome.

Items of Interest

The UNC Glee Clubs are holding auditions through Nov. 14. Contact Professor Tamte Horan, 225 Hill Hall, 962-5695.

Yackety Yack yearbooks will be on sale for \$21 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. through Nov. 21 in the Pit.

The Yackety Yack is offering free portrait sittings until Nov. 19. Call 962-3912 or drop by 106 Union to schedule an appointment.

One Student Congress Seat representing Granville Towers (Dist. 10) is open. Any interested Granville residents should come by Suite C to obtain a petition.

Chuck Matthee, Executive Director of the Institute for Community Economics, and Lanier Fonvielle, Durham City Council Member, will discuss "Affordable Housing and the Community Land Trust Model" Friday at 12:30 p.m. in 102 New East.

The MBA Program will present Hugh McColl, Jr., Chairman of the Board, NCNB Corporation, Tuesday, Nov. 18 at 12:30 p.m. in the Hanes Art Center Auditorium.

A mandatory meeting of candidates for the vacant Granville Towers Student Congress seat will be held 5 p.m. Monday, Nov. 17 in the South Gallery of the Union.

Sam

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added, "We're just glad to have him back where he is supposed to be."

University officials originally scheduled Silent Sam to return to Chapel Hill in early October, but asked the Karkadoulises to wait until Nov. 6. The delay, prevented University Day, Halloween and the inauguration of UNC President C.D. Spangler from overshadowing his homecoming.

Trouble with the truck the Karkadoulises planned to use to haul the statue, further postponed his return to Monday.

Silent Sam then waited in the

Morehead Planetarium parking lot to retake his post. Before he was remounted Wednesday, the Karkadoulises cleaned and repaired Silent Sam's commemorative plaques and pedestal.

Eleftherios Karkadoulis said he would restore the Caldwell Monument, an obelisk south of Silent Sam, Wednesday and today.

From Chapel Hill, Karkadoulis said he and his team would travel to Raleigh to take some cast iron rails on the second level of the state capitol to Cincinnati for repair.

The Karkadoulises, who operate one of three shops in the United States capable of the restorations Silent Sam needed, were chosen by the University partly because of earlier work on statues in Raleigh's Union Square.

Eleftherios Karkadoulis, who moved to the United States from Greece in 1970, said that he learned his trade in the old country and that to be a restorer one must possess a feeling for the art plus the necessary skills.

ATTENTION STUDENTS Carolina Basketball Tickets

Student tickets are still available for Carolina's Exhibition opener with Yugoslavia on Saturday evening, November 22nd. Tickets are also available for the season opener against Stetson on Thursday, December 4th and the game against Miami on Saturday afternoon, December 6th. Present your student I.D. and athletic pass at the Smith Center Box Office between 8:00 am and 5:00 pm.

Hardee's

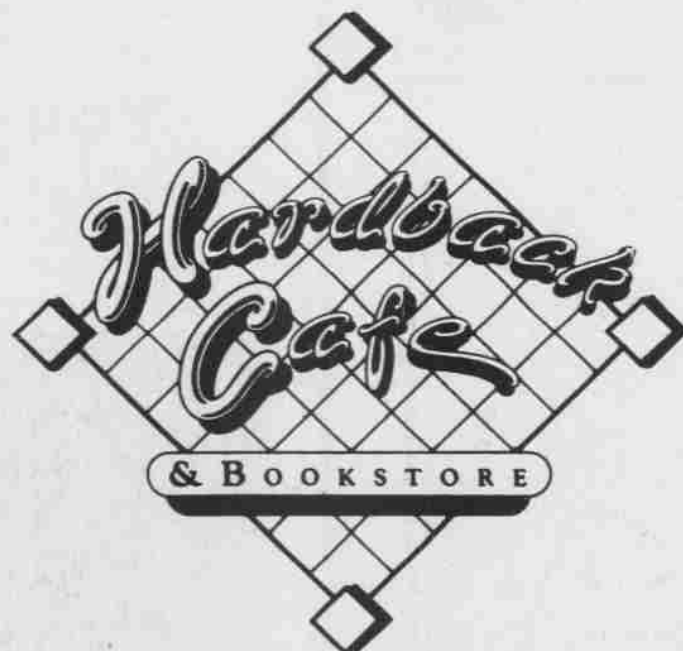
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