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New Order of the Grizzly award to be launched in spring

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FOR RELEASE SUNDAY, MAY 16

by Jack Ryan

The Order of the Grizzly, an award for those whose careers or service have brought honor to the University or the state, will be launched this spring by President Robert Johns of Montana State University. In ceremonies at New York on June 7, four former Montanans will be the first recipients of the honor. They include Robert C. Bates, executive director of the Rockefeller Brothers Foundation, Lew L. Callaway, Jr., publisher of Newsweek Magazine, William Forbis, senior editor of Time Magazine, and Robert O'Brien, president of Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer.

Suitably enough, since it is the traditional mascot of the University and a symbol of the state, a cast bronze grizzly bear will be one of the tokens of the award to each man. These little bears, measuring $7\frac{1}{2}$ inches high by 9 inches long, were sculpted and cast at the University under the hands and direction of Rudy Autio, the University's distinguished ceramic artist and sculptor.

In its way, each of the bronze grizzlies is an individual work of art. Autio first created the bear in modeling clay. Next step was the making of a sectional plaster mold to encase the original model, providing a reverse replica of the bear which could then be coated with a special wax. After the forms were stripped away, Autio had a positive replica of the bear in wax. This was then hand tooled to remove imperfections and point up the character of the animal. Tubes of wax were then attached to the model in order to provide channels through which the molten bronze would eventually flow.

The next step was to encase the wax model in a sand mold which was then fired in one of the University kilns to burn out the wax, leaving a casting mold with the reverse modeled impression of the bear. Molten bronze was then poured into the mold and, after cooling, the bear was ready for the final steps--hand tooling and mounting on a hardwood base for presentation.

(more)

Besides the bronze grizzly, each honoree will also receive a signed certificate, attesting to his membership in the order. It is probable that the membership will be limited, since the honor is intended to signalize the work of an outstanding career or an outstanding service to the University or the State of Montana. In this way, the Order of the Grizzly is in the nature of various medal awards presented by other colleges and universities in recognition of excellence.

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