



**Art appreciation**

staff photo by Eric Evan Lee

Kris Palas, a senior microbiology major from Katy, looks over the pastel paintings in the Memorial

Student Center's gallery Tuesday morning. The works are by faculty of the environmental design college.

**Part of the Big Band era**

**Harry James dead at 67**

United Press International LAS VEGAS, Nev. — Harry James, one of America's best known big band leaders for more than 40 years who helped launch Frank Sinatra to stardom, died Tuesday of cancer. He was 67.

James, who had been ill since April with lymphatic cancer but had performed as recently as last month, died at 5:30 a.m. PDT at Valley Hospital. He been hospitalized since July 1.

James and his glitzy trumpet epitomized the big band sound, and he continued to play and improvise swing music throughout his career, lamenting the passing of melodic music in favor of the driving beat of rock.

James began taking music lessons under his father's direction at age 6 and went on to join the ranks of Benny Goodman, Artie Shaw, Tommy and Jimmy Dorsey and Glen Miller during the big band era of World War II.

At the height of his career, on July 5, 1943, James, the No. 1

trumpeter, married the nation's No. 1 pin-up girl, Betty Grable. Their marriage lasted until 1965 when they were divorced. James and Grable, who died in 1973, had two daughters and a son.

From 1941 to 1943, the slender, mustachioed James' popularity created traffic jams and riots during a New York appearance.

Sinatra first established himself as a big band crooner as James' featured singer. James later hired newcomer Dick Haymes as his lead singer and Haymes, like Sinatra, went on to stardom.

James was born March 15, 1916, in Albany, Ga., where the Mighty Haag Circus was pitched at the time. His mother performed on a trapeze until one month before his birth. His father conducted the circus band.

They proudly christened their son Harry Haag James.

By age 10, James was playing solo trumpet and at the age of 12 was given the job of conducting the No. 2 circus band.

When he was 15, he got tired of blowing marches for the circus and began sitting in with dance bands around the Southwest. Within a few years he was offered a job with Ben Pollack's orchestra and he wrote a song, "Peckin'" which started a dance craze among a newly spawned group of jazz music lovers who were known as jitterbugs.

But it was a trumpet solo on a Pollack record called "Deep Elm" that brought James his first real break, a recording of "Sweet King."

Goodman heard the record and sent for James, who joined him in 1937. It was Goodman who encouraged James to form his own band and in 1939 he took the advice.

When James took off on his own he found the going tough. His band was good but there were no listeners.

Then James took advantage of his own horn and recorded the classic "You Made Me Love You" and the country sat up and listened. He had hit the big time. He followed his original hit re-

ording with "I Cried for You" and other hits with great solos.

When the big band diminished, James stayed in Vegas and spent the 1950s and 1960s in lounges. He scooped talent and when lounge began to disappear, James three seven-week tours the South during the East in the spring and west in the fall.

James appeared on the 20th Century Fox telecast "Do You Love Me" "Best Foot Forward" "Girls and a Sailor" and "Beauties" and was an adviser and played all the part parts in "Young Mr. Horn."

Among his most recordings, after an 18-year career, was "Still All These Years," a joyous brisk sales in 1970 following "The King of the Hill" which sold 750,000 copies.

**Man races despite 7 heart attacks**

United Press International NEW YORK — A man who has suffered seven heart attacks and had double bypass heart surgery is running a six-day, 300-mile marathon in Central Park.

Joe Michaels, 42, of Queens said the purpose of the run is to show that even people with heart trouble can live a normal life.

"He's teaching heart patients not to sit down and wait to die," said his mother, Gertrude Michaels.

Michaels hopes to cover 300 miles — 50 miles a day — during his run. He is expected to finish the run July 10.

Michaels suffered the last of his seven heart attacks when he was 36. Three years later he underwent a double bypass operation, Mrs. Michaels said.

Since that time, Michaels has run in the New York City marathon twice, once in the Boston Marathon and once in the Long Island Marathon.

Mrs. Michaels said he ran and walked 581 miles from Toronto, Canada, to New York City to raise funds for research in spina bifida, a birth defect suffered by his son Jason, 10, which makes it difficult for the boy to walk.

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