

Future architects plan local playground

Final design to incorporate ideas from several projects

By CHERYL HELLER
The Battalion

A group of environmental design students recently participated in a competition to design a new playground for a local private school.

Thirty-five students of A&M professors Isabel Garcia and Julie Rogers were asked to assist St. Michael's Academy in Bryan in rebuilding its playground.

Junior Jason Prince said he thinks the assignment benefited both the design students and the community.

"What I liked most about the project is that we actually got to deal with a real client," he said. "I wish we had more real life assignments because they further our education while helping the community."

Although the teachers and parents at St. Michael's plan to build the playground themselves, they were interested in A&M architecture students designing the new playground through a competition, Garcia said.

Parents examined the projects at a reception March 9 at St. Michael's and awarded cash prizes to three students.

Michelle Carter received first place for her playground design, Ariel Fausto won second place, and Souksanit Phomsavanh took third place. Daniel Dixon received an honorable mention.

Rogers said the actual plans for the playground will probably combine aspects of all the students' designs, not just the win-

ning entries.

Throughout the project, the students talked with the children at St. Michael's to find out what they needed and wanted, Garcia said.

The students also examined existing equipment that will be reused in the new playground.

From that information, the students prepared plans, perspective drawings of different parts of the playgrounds and models.

They also researched different kinds of playground equipment and presented the information in a booklet.

"This project was good for the students because they had to deal with real world situations for the first time," Garcia said. "They usually have to work with hypothetical situations, and this was their first taste of designing for other people."

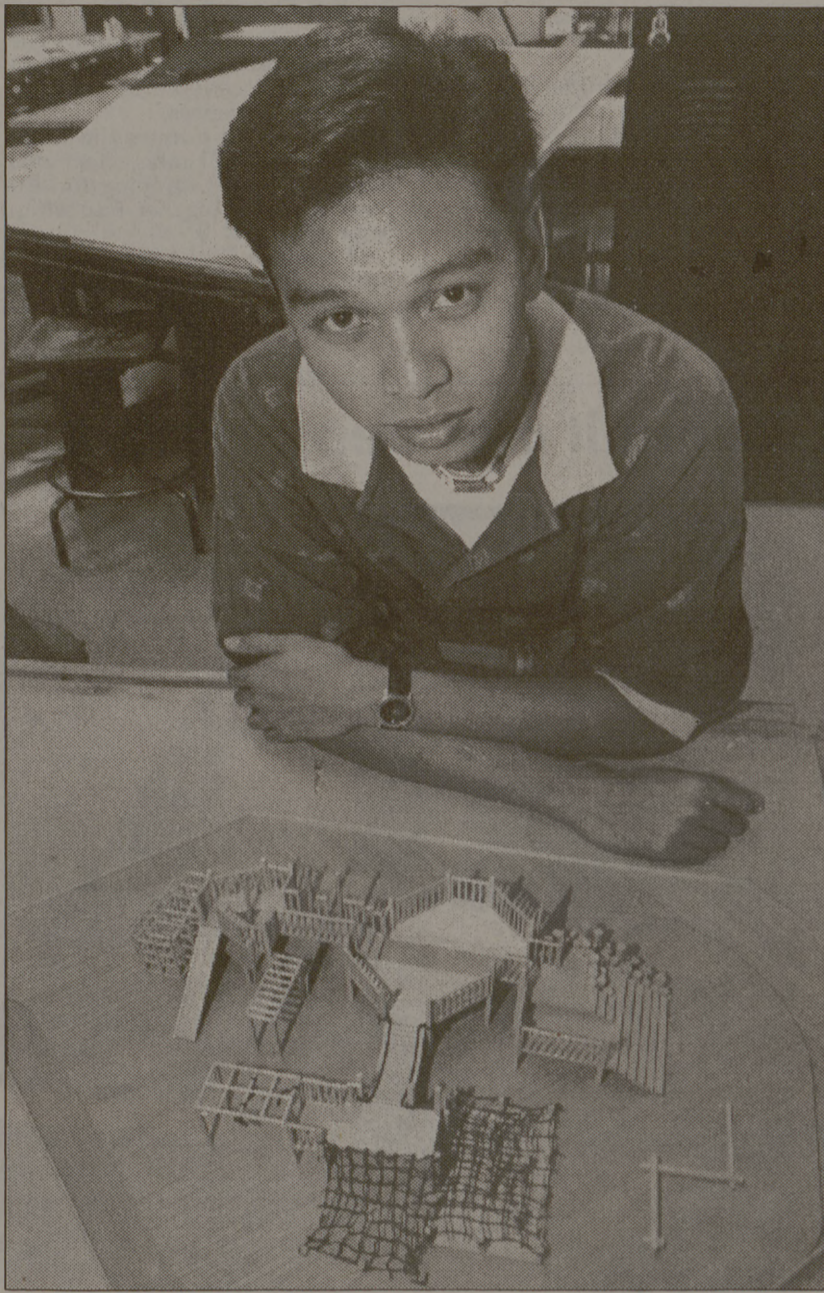
Dixon said he enjoyed the project because of the creative freedom the students were allowed.

"The project was really loosely organized so we could be free with our designs," he said. "It added a lot of creativity we usually don't have with our projects."

Rogers said the project was a big step for the students because it gave them a chance to see what the future will be like before they enter the working world.

"It was an important project from the standpoint of the students having to deal with a real client and a real situation," she said.

"The fact that they gave something back to the community is important as well."



Ariel Fausto, a sophomore architecture major from Houston, displays his design that took 2nd place in a local playground design contest.

Court hands down charges in A&M student stabbing

By JENNIFER SMITH
The Battalion

A Galveston teen-ager was charged with attempted murder Monday for the stabbing of a Texas A&M University student last week during spring break activities on the island.

Nicholas Anthony Villareal, 17, is accused of stabbing Christopher T. Shannon, 18, a freshman electrical engineering major.

Shannon was stabbed in the chest, twice in the heart, and in the head, shortly before midnight Wednesday.

Officials from the Galveston Police Department said witnesses identified Villareal as Shannon's attacker, and they believe

they have recovered the knife used in the attack.

Villareal turned himself in to police Monday and is being held in the Galveston County Jail on a \$20,000 bond.

Shannon and some friends were having a party at a Galveston hotel when they were told that a group, including Villareal, had beaten and robbed someone, said police officials.

Police officials said Villareal was a student at Ball High School until he was expelled in November.

Shannon was in good condition Tuesday, and a University of Texas Medical Branch spokeswoman said it is not known when he will be released.

Fund raising

Continued from Page 1

programs or department awards.

If CEC makes a strong showing, the program will help other University fund-raising programs, Friedman said.

"It shows that there are people here who respect the University enough to essentially put their money on the line," he said.

CEC is part of the University's Capturing the Spirit campaign, which seeks to raise \$500 million for Texas A&M. Capturing the Spirit has already raised \$260 million.

Jim Palincsar, director of Capturing the Spirit, said, "We're trying to get the campus to generate its own creativity to come up with different kinds of projects that will appeal to the campus as a whole."

He said his campaign has found that people who work at A&M know the University well and want a chance to invest in its future.

Friedman said, "We're not totally state-supported and the difference between mediocrity and greatness will be what we can put together using these contributions and support from the private sector."

Though these fund-raising campaigns are not meant to replace state funding, Palincsar said, the recent state budget cuts in higher education have helped the fund-raising campaigns.

"The budget cuts in Austin have really raised people's awareness, both former students and friends of the University, in how important private gifts are to maintaining and enhancing a lot of our activities here," he said.

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Thursday

Heavy Metal - 7:00p.m. & 9:15p.m.

Friday

Star Trek VI - 7:00p.m.
Fire and Ice - 9:15p.m.

Rocky Horror Picture Show - Midnight

Saturday

Looney, Looney, Looney,
Bugs Bunny Movie - 2:00p.m. - \$1.25
Dracula(1931) - 4:00p.m. - \$1.25
Frankenstein(1931) - 5:30p.m. - \$1.25
Night of the Living Dead(1968) - 7:00p.m.
Creepshow - 9:15p.m.

Rocky Horror Picture Show - Midnight

Tickets for all shows are \$2.25 unless otherwise noted

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