

# CAMPUS LIFE



**ART DRAWS INTEREST** — Artist Chris Wilson (left) of Barton College introduces his art to a large crowd at a public reception last week honoring an exhibition of Wilson's paintings and drawings now on display through Dec. 17 at the Mims Gallery at the Dunn Center for the Performing Arts. The reception also included a dedication to the acquisition of Wilson's recently finished portrait of Daisy Thorp, Wesleyan professor emeritus of art. The Mims Gallery is open to the public weekdays from 2-4 p.m.

## Presidential candidates split on affirmative action value

Affirmative action is an issue that's been debated in state legislatures, attacked in court rooms, and prompted protests on college campuses during the past year.

Here's a look at the presidential candidates' views on affirmative action:

### Democrat Bill Clinton:

*"We should reaffirm the principle of affirmative action and fix the practices. Mend it, but don't end it."*

The president supports affirmative action programs, but wants limits. He created a task force to review government affirmative action programs and concluded they were worthwhile. He opposes quotas and has directed federal departments to change any program that creates a preference for unqualified people.

"I'm against quotas. I'm against reverse discrimination; I'm against giving anybody unqualified anything they're not qualified for. But I am for making a conscious effort to bring the American people together," he said.

Clinton opposes Proposition 209, the California ballot measure that would end race and gender preferences in state hiring and university admissions.

### Republican Bob Dole:

*"You do not cure the evil of discrimination with more discrimination."*

Dole once supported affirmative action but now opposes it, favoring programs based on merit. "I think now we've reached a point where we need to move on," he said.

As Senate majority leader, he introduced the Equal Employment Opportunity Act of 1996, which would end most federal affirmative action programs. He supports efforts to recruit qualified women and minorities in the work place.

"What we really want to have someday in America is a color-blind society. Maybe we're not

there yet, but it's time to end quotas...and preferences and deal with merit," he said.

Dole supports Proposition 209.

### Reform Party leader Ross Perot:

*"It needs to be fine-tuned and changed."*

Perot said he believes that affirmative action made dramatic changes in America and led to "tremendous progress" by minorities. But the program has problems that need to be worked out, he said.

Perot has not taken a stance on Proposition 209.

"To shut it down may or may not be premature," he said. "I would like to study that."

## 'Radio Hour' gives newcomers chance to outshine veterans

By MOLLY McCLUSKEY

Maybe it was the fact that the opening night of "1940s Radio Hour" in the Dunn Center was on a Thursday. Maybe it was the fact that the tech cues were frequently late — the applause sign flashed only after the moment had passed — or maybe it was the costuming: frequently ill-fitting. Whatever the reason, the opening night fell far short of the polished performance it should have been.

The cast was off, on notes sung, on lines spoken, and on emotions, though falsified, which didn't ring true. Veteran Missy Harbach, whose performance was at best lukewarm, lacked the enthusiasm usually apparent in her performances.

Drew Davis was in the background as the assistant to the radio manager. His lines were few, requiring the most of every gesture.

The character of sleazy Johnny Cantone was played by Kevin Corbett, no stranger to Wesleyan's theater. Corbett gave a caliber performance, delivering his drunken lines with relish and an accent that was part New York and part the Godfather. Even his intoxicated slump onto the set, though in the background, earned several laughs. However, even Corbett commented later that that wasn't his best performance.

### Review

The exceptions in this cast of unrealized potential, indeed the saving grace of the play, came not from the expected sources, the veterans, but instead from the freshmen. Indeed, Meegan Gray and Candice Rowe gave the audience their money's worth.

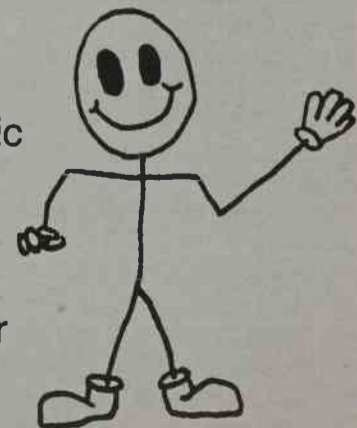
Gray, whose sore throat should have made her solo number raspy, instead turned the illness to her advantage, making her number sultry and captivating the crowd. Candice Rowe's voice rang sweet and pure over the audience. Her character was sassy and confident, and Candice did not miss a line or a note.

In addition to the freshmen ladies, another noteworthy performance came from John Morgan. Morgan stole the show as the naive coffee boy hoping to catch his chance on radio. Upon realization of that dream, his body shook with glee and excitement with every move.

While the "1940s Radio Hour" had the potential to be a truly notable performance given the proven talent of its upperclassmen performers, its cast for the most part fell far short of the mark, leaving the freshmen plenty of room to take the lead.

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