

Direct from Carrboro, It's Monday Night Live

By JULIA WHITE
Staff Writer

The entire evening was a study in shoes. From the leather sandals of a mustachioed guitar player to the tap shoes of a red-sequined dancer and the Chuck Taylor high-tops of a high-school guitarist, the night rocked, swayed and danced on. In a few minutes of stage set-ups the audience was transposed from the rocking '80s to the soulful '60s and on to timeless era when songs like "Four Wet Pigs" were a hit.

ArtSchool, The Center for Visual and Performing Arts, was the location for the Monday Night Live! talent competition, and yes, the exclamation point is necessary. It conveys the exciting nature of the new talent that was displayed Monday night, and the mood of the ever-so-polite audience that was there to appreciate the diversity of the performers.

The announcement of the winner was not the highlight of the evening. The winner, Bruce Wilks, was not even around to claim his prize. The performances themselves were each a high point, pulling the audience into laughing, singing along and applauding the routines.

Wilks typified the acts performed by enjoying himself when things went wrong. Dressed in a Hawaiian print shirt and leather sandals, he smiled even when his banjo string broke and he forgot some of the words and abruptly ended a song. When he introduced his song "Circle" as one that he wanted to become "trad. anon.," (which stands for traditional anonymous, like that old favorite "Take Me Out to the Ball Game," that everyone has known from conception and no one knows quite how), he invited the crowd to join in on the chorus. After the third time around, the three-part harmony began to bring back memories of long-haired teen-agers with earnest expressions singing "I'd Like to Buy the World a Coke."

Wilks' song, though maybe not worthy of trad. anon. status, was very beautiful and succeeded in uniting the audience into a softly crooning choir. By the way, that's Dr. Bruce Wilks, a medical doctor in Chatham County. Before going out on his solo career, he was with a group called Three Guys Yelling, and a group called the Potato Heads. Moonlighting is amazing, isn't it?

Wilks described his music as "mongrel music," or in other words, what he calls punko-rockabilly-reggae-blues. As well as playing the

banjo, he also strums a guitar. He said banjo music always involves two things: songs about chickens and songs with ridiculous lyrics. Though his lyrics were sometimes a little silly ("Grab your sister and your Uncle Joe, go somewhere where no one can find you, live in a fairytale"), he was indeed very talented and evoked several rounds of applause.

The runner-up was another guitarist, Lisa Redolphy, who mellowed her way into everyone's hearts. She performed "Fire" and Bette Midler's "The Rose." Once again the crowd was swaying to her own song "Senses," and a time warp seemed to place everyone back into a coffee house in '67.

One of the hits of the evening was early in the show when Jonathan Bloom took to the piano bench and wailed out a few songs. His performance was scheduled early because he had to get home for bedtime; he is, as he describes it, seven-and-three-quarters years old. The audience got a kick out of the line, "He gets me my drinks for free." The child's toes barely reached the sustain pedal on the piano.

Bloom was probably the most confident performer, ferociously pounding out the notes and singing lustily to "We Are the World." Before introducing his second song of three, he said "I hope you enjoy this song, it's my next to last. Time passes quickly." His younger sister seemed worried for him when everyone laughed. Someday he could be a great



Jonathan Bloom belts out a tune before bedtime

Tar Heel/Chip Bevering

entertainer in his own right. He certainly has plenty of time to develop his skills.

The Junior Dancemakers of Chapel Hill sparked up the dimly lit gallery with their variations of tap.

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*I used to jog, but the ice kept falling out of my glass...
It's not whether you win or lose:
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Oh no! I forgot to have children!*

and more...

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