

'Imaginary Invalid' saves best for last

By CECILIA LYNN CASEY

Wesleyan's Performing and Visual Arts Department presented Moliere's "The Imaginary Invalid" on Feb. 15. Overall, the play was entertaining and enjoyable with the last act being the best. It was a good performance and well worth seeing.

The stage and costumes were well done and everyone having a hand in producing them should be congratulated. Also, actress Anna Marrow, who played Argon's youngest daughter, was charming to watch and did well with her part.

Rob Mullins was a surprise as he proved that he could sing as well as act. he performed his part admirably and hopefully he will continue to be a part of the theater department at Wesleyan.

As for the more seasoned actors, Todd Waters, John Pernell, and Kristi Larson each gave performances just shy of their abilities.

Todd Waters, who starred as Argon, was at times very humorous and convincing. But for the first part of the play he drifted into being too hammy. For instance, when Argon was yelling at his maid Toni (Kristi Larson),

Review

it was nothing more than lines being said loudly.

Kristi Larson gave a good performance and was at her best when she was talking to Angela, played by Erica Weiss. Larson likewise lost a degree of her usual spark when she was yelling at

Waters, which made the first act suffer. But by the end of the play, Waters and Larson both were doing their best acting, and as a result the end of the play was delightful.

John Pernell, who played Thomas Diarrhea, had a strong beginning and carried most of the scene in which Angela first meets Thomas, who is the man her father wants her to marry. By the end of the play, however, Pernell lost his steam, which was disap-

pointing because he is an excellent actor and owes his audience something more than standing on a box bumping and grinding.

Most of the audience enjoyed the play as the laughter and applause indicated. Freshman Pete Widell said the play "was very humorous. I thought that Robert sung great. I really liked it."

Lisa Jones said that it was "Killer!" and sophomore Kevin Hambrecht commented, "Wow! What a performance!"

Bashing Japan useless

(Continued from Page 2)

dard of living is far superior to theirs, and that Japanese are becoming increasingly disenchanted with their labor hours.

In the midst of all this deal-making or agreeing on target goals or whatever, Congressman Richard Gephardt (D-Mo.) offered up a law which would close our markets if the Japanese didn't reduce the trade deficit. The fact that such a thing is impossible doesn't seem to matter. You see, the reason we have a trade gap is that we buy Japanese goods. We buy Japanese goods because we want them. What trade barriers from the U.S. would do is block out Japanese goods, restricting competition and artificially supporting failed companies.

Getting Japan to let us send Fords to Tokyo is not the answer. If we can't take Honda's market share here, what makes anybody think we can get it in Japan? If we could sell our goods here, they couldn't, and we'd all be happy.

The secret to balanced trade is to make quality products and advertise them so as to convince the rest of the country that the U.S. goods are the ones we want. We call that competition and the free market system. Competition makes our goods get better, so the consumer wins.

Before I get accused of being insensitive and not caring about workers in danger of losing their jobs, I'd like to point out that foreign trade doesn't destroy jobs. There are other factors that do, such as when we move plants out of the country or somesuch. The trade deficit is only in the goods column.

As Walter Williams pointed out in his Jan. 29 syndicated column, the Japanese don't make picture galleries for green and white portraits of U.S. Presidents. They take their dollars and use them. All dollars have to get back here sooner or later, because nobody has use for them in some other country. The Japanese invest in our capital resources in the form of stocks, bonds, bank accounts, Rockefeller Center, baseball teams, whatever. Our goods deficit is matched by our capital resources sale surplus, we are actually in a state of balanced trade.

Protectionism is bad. Several of our presidential candidates are beating the drums to do unto Japan as Japan does unto us, all based on misconceptions and populism. They figure that if they can convince us that Japan is the root of all recessions, they can be swept into office. But competition is the driving force behind the free market, and protectionism defeats competition.

(Continued from Page 2)

the governor and his wife a few minutes to explain away any doubts raised by the adultery issue. They said they had worked out their marital problems — which might make them famous under different circumstances.

But the media then discovered a letter Clinton wrote in 1969 about his concerns about the Vietnam War. If you take the time to read this letter (the excerpts published), you know that his agony reflects an entire generation's and is rather well articulated.

If you think that adultery or agonizing over the Vietnam War automatically negates a person for the presidency, then you don't need me. But I can't help but want to know what kind of governor Clinton was. Why does he say he doesn't support his state's regressive sales tax on groceries and non-prescription drugs when the records clearly show that he opposed every voter or legislative attempt to repeal it? What kind of Democrat supports Bush's anti-union agreement with Mexico for a free trade treaty which took jobs

from his state?

George Bush and Bill Clinton have spent their entire adult lives preparing to be president. No one had a better resume than Bush, according to Washington standards. Does that mean that they have studied books as do scholars or studied their fellow citizens as do regular people? No. It means they have hired media experts and kissed the rear ends of special interest groups.

They are not, as Jerry Brown is trying to tell us, their own persons. They are inventions, created to appear to be whatever they need to get elected. Once in office, they think they deserve our gratitude and respect. For what? My mama taught me respect has to be earned.

Voting could mean more than

superficial glamor (Bush with Arnold Schwarzenegger?) or a thousand-points-of-light rhetoric (Kerrey's *New New Deal*) or alternatives which are no alternatives (Tsongas on capital gains) or alternatives which are worse (Buchanan's anti-semitic, homophobic, racist, sexist fantasies).

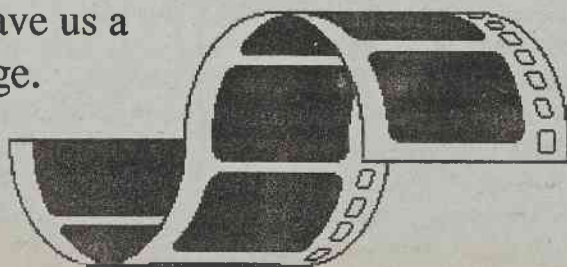
At the moment, however, it means nothing else for many of us. We would rather accept what can be scanned quickly than search for what might actually work.

I can't help but wonder whether or not democracy will turn out to be a failed experiment because the electorate failed to live up to its part of the bargain.

Think about it.

Flik piks...

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