

Sculptor brings metal to life at campus art show

JARED BEZZANT
A&E Editor

Copper, brass and bronze are not the most common media of art. This is one of the reasons C. Greg Wilbur finds being a metalsmith and sculptor so rewarding.

"I'm filling a niche in the art world," said Wilbur of his work that is now on display in the Pauling Gallery through Feb. 5. Wilbur's solo art show is simply entitled "C. Greg Wilbur—Metal."

For twenty years Wilbur has made an impression in various museums across the country, including the Smithsonian Institution. Many of his displays are of raised metal urns and bowls in organic shapes and colors.

Wilbur said the organic structure comes from a deep inspiration from nature. He also stated that his art is an expression of liberation from the likes of the Vietnam War, in which Wilbur served.

The shaping comes from an ancient metalsmithing process that includes stretched sheets of malleable metals hammered into the desired shape.

"I hammer really hard for four hours a day," said Wilbur. "Any more and I would injure myself."

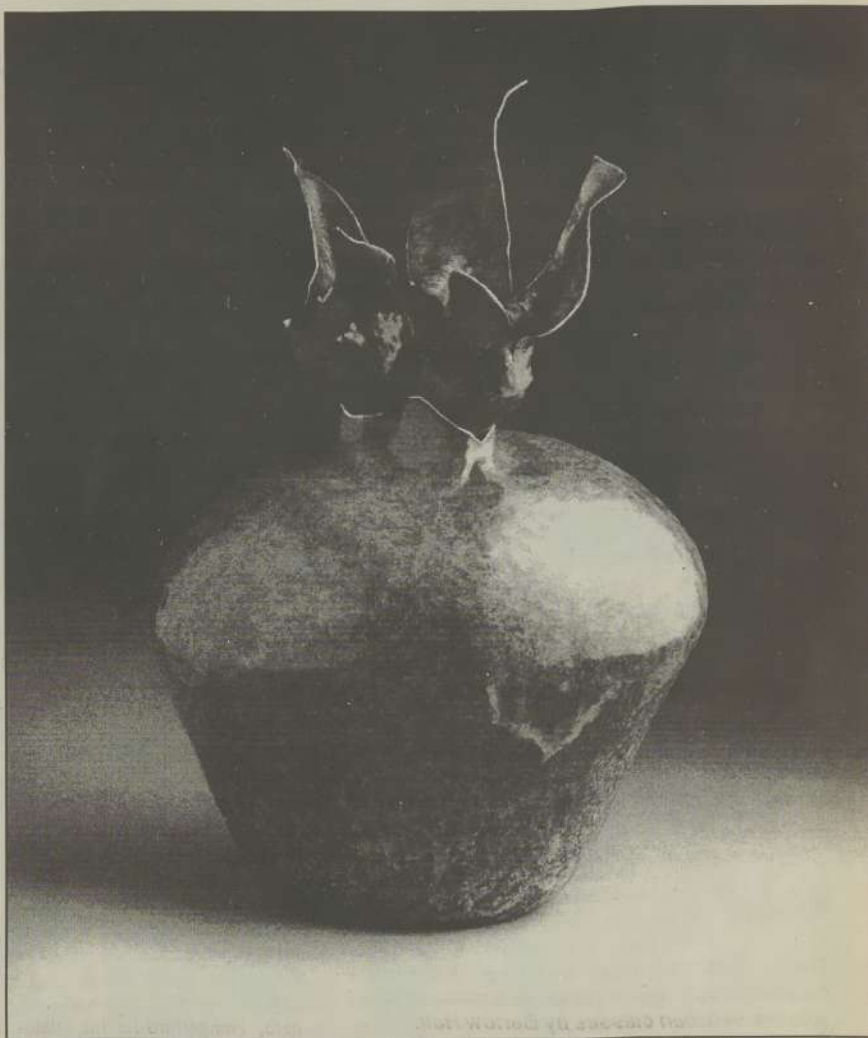
Injury doesn't only come through hammering, though, as a large burn on Wilbur's forearm attests. For each color that is created there is a unique method. A shade of green requires a spray of four different acids that Wilbur applies to create chemical reactions in the color. The red vessels are heated in extreme temperatures and afterwards plunged into boiling water and held down, until the desired tint of red is reached.

Art in this medium requires a lot of time. Wilbur spends approximately a month on some of his pieces. Wilbur, who has been an art instructor, now makes a living from his metal works.

"This is more than a hobby," said Wilbur.

The pieces sell for a fair price, considering all the sweat that goes into them. "Two Red Leaves," a brown vase shaped vessel with two leaves above the rim, is valued at \$1,600. "Bat Lick" is set at \$1,300.

Wilbur seems happy to have found his niche with his glossy images, twisted and smoothed into delicate natural beauty that comes from such hard materials as copper and brass. This art is truly deceiving, appearing so easy and soft, when in reality it is very difficult to create.



Two bats peek their heads from a fruit vessel of raised brass in Wilbur's "Bat Lick."

Low-budget movie leaves audience wagging for more

Movie: Wag the Dog
Director: Barry Levinson
Starring: Dustin Hoffman, Robert DeNiro, Anne Heche, Denis Leary, Woody Harrelson, and Willie Nelson
Alex's opinion: A well-written and acted movie.

ALEX MAHAN
A&E Editor

It is rare in this era of big-budget movies when a film made in 29 days and for a paltry \$15 million can become a nationwide hit. But "Wag the Dog," directed by Barry Levinson, definitely has the potential.

Dustin Hoffman and Robert DeNiro both star in this hilarious political satire in which the President is accused of molesting a Girl Scout only 11 days before the

election. DeNiro masterminds a plot to divert attention away from the incident by "creating" a war with Albania. Hoffman plays the Hollywood producer hired by DeNiro to invent and produce the phony war.

The scenario created is great: Albanian terrorists have captured a nuclear device and are holding it somewhere near the U.S.-Canada border. The media devotes all of their attention to this crisis, and the heat is off of the President at least for awhile. But when the CIA finds out that there is no nuclear device, the

two peddlers of deception have to come up with a new tactic.

These antics continue throughout the movie, until the ending, which has a few unexpected surprises. Woody Harrelson also makes a cameo towards the end, playing quite an interesting character.

The quality of the acting and the quirky plot are both things that make this film enjoyable. But the cinematography is also excellent. Different kinds of shots and angles occur frequently, and vari-

able zooms also make the camera work stand out.

Overall, "Wag the Dog" is one of the best movies currently on the silver screen. It is funny, well-acted, and well-written Hoffman and DeNiro work extremely well together in their parts, which is essential to a good movie-watching experience.

The small price tag and high entertainment value of "Wag the Dog" show that you don't have to spend \$200 million to make a quality film in the late 1990's.



Robert DeNiro gives Dustin Hoffman some sound advice on mingling politics with filmmaking.

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