

# Artist Young Inspires Crowd

Speakers and audience members praise cartoonist for his encouragement and educational work.

By **ARIELLE LEVIN BECKER**  
COURANT STAFF REPORTER

Andrew Flynn, 12, of Simsbury, an aspiring fashion designer, clutched a trophy from his art teacher Thursday and scanned the room for fashion-industry connections.

Andrew had won the trophy in a com-

## IN HARTFORD'S NEIGHBORHOODS

petition sponsored by Joe Young, a Hartford-based cartoonist who teaches drawing to area youngsters. Andrew was searching for career inspiration among the 100 or so people Young had brought together at Capital Community College to celebrate his recent video, "You Can Draw." The group ranged from cartooning students to city and music-industry leaders.

Young, known nationally for his cartoon "Scruples," used the event to present trophies to young artists, screen his new television show and raise money for a series of summer cartooning workshops for students in the Hartford area. But speakers and audience members were quick to turn the attention back to Young, whom they praised for his inspiration and educational work.

"We need to support individuals like Joe," said Mayor Eddie A. Perez, who called Young a "local hero for Hartford."

"He's trying to do for young people what others did for him," the mayor said.

"You Can Draw," a 58-minute instructional video, is the most recent of Young's efforts to bring art to wider audiences. He founded a local educational arts agency, and currently

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**EDDIE A. PEREZ**  
MAYOR

serves as the director of the Community Renewal Team. He teaches cartooning workshops for area students and seniors. This summer, he plans to teach similar workshops in 20 area towns for students who might not otherwise have access to the arts, said Jackie Miller-Black, who helped organize Thursday evening's event.

Friends, family members and students — who ranged from youngsters like Andrew to Jean Frankiewicz, 71 — cheered loudly as Young demonstrated his quick cartooning skills, sketching nine images in 59 seconds.

Young also screened a portion of his new television show, *Instant Artist*, which he produced with media students from Capital Community College. The show, which will air on Connecticut Public Television next month, was part-sketch, part-sketch comedy, and featured a segment of artwork youngsters from around the country had sent to him.

Will Dukes, one of the Capital students who helped Young produce the show, first met Young as a middle school student. Dukes remembered selling newspapers featuring "Joe's kids page," one of Young's early creations.

"It's good to see him doing good things," Dukes said. "He came so far."