On Tuesday, Oct. 19, Rider professor, Dr. Rick Homan and student's radio show Professor performs on student’s radio show

By David Maccar

Jack & Bobby premiered on Sept. 12 in a primetime slot and it paid off. The concept behind the show is what makes it unique. The main characters are Jack McCallister and his younger brother Bobby. Jack is popular and Bobby is introverted and geektastic. The catch is that one of them becomes the President of the United States in the year 2041.

There are flash-forward interviews with White House staff members and The First Lady in 2049. The writers, including Greg Berlanti (Everwood, Dawson’s Creek) and Thomas Schlamme (The West Wing, Ally McBeal), create wonderful contrasts by describing certain events the president faced during his term in the flash-forwards and then relating them to experiences the brothers had in the present day.

The first episode was something of a suspense piece because the ads for the show said only one brother would be president. Throughout the whole pilot episode, viewers were led to believe it was Jack because the girl he meets, Courtney Benedict (Jessica Pare) is interviewed in the future as the first lady. By the end of the episode, we find that the physical- ly weak, but highly intelligent Bobby actually ends up in the White House after his brother's death.

Part of the show's allure is that the audience learns more and more about the "future" through snippets of information revealed in the flash-forwards such as the fact that there will be a female president.

In addition to this, each episode confronts timely, issues. The writers accomplish this by following the story of Jack and Bobby's single, pot-smoking, college professor mother, Grace McCallister (masterfully portrayed by Christine Lahti) as she uses her blunt personality to raise issues about feminism, voting, drugs, activism and honesty.

The storyline is interesting and does not fall into the gushy rut that many dramas on the WB do. Also, the fact that the show gives viewers a glimpse of how a president's character can be shaped by his life experiences makes it particularly worth watching, especially with the election looming in the near future. Undecided voters might want to check out Jack & Bobby, which airs on Sundays at 9 p.m., just as a spotlight that illustrates that a president is, after all, only a human being.