

The following memo was sent to Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, J. Gross; Vice President of Academic Affairs, M. Pursell; Vice President for Student Affairs, L. Koch; Vice President for University Advancement, J. Updegraff; Director of Public Relations, Debbie Jackson.

MEMO 10/20/92

TO:

FROM: J, Gordon, Chair,
Department of Speech and Theatre

RE: Latest Copy of *THE BACKDROP*,
The University Players Newsletter

Attached please find a copy of The University Players Newsletter, *THE BACKDROP*. I thought you might want to read a little of what is going on over here in the Theatre Area of Sloan Fine Arts Center.

I have been meaning to get this to you sooner, but as you well know this semester has brought to all our desks matters that would not go away until we "*laid hands on them*." Every once in a while an occasional biblical reference doesn't hurt. There are times this semester when we would all like to have the fire of pentecost burning through our hands. We could lay hands on the budget woes, campus problems in general, and shout, "Heal! I rebuke the demon that possesses this body." But alas, the fires of pentecost seen not to be present leaving us with just two hands to do the work at hand. Enough... Enough already.

Now that the Spring Schedule is out I can at last get to the things that have been needing my attention. Sending you a copy of this is one of those things I can now get to.

Much thanks to Dr. Peter Mellen and his crew of students who work so hard to make the production and printing of *THE BACKDROP* possible.

Enjoy, Enjoy.

The

BACKDROP



Oct. 1992 Vol. 4 Issue 1

THE UNIVERSITY PLAYERS PRESENT MAINSTAGE

You, the Jury

Barbara Scott is on trial for the murder of her employer Chester Arthur Brant. Barbara is being defended by her sister Edith, who can use any help she can get to win her case. Unfortunately for Edith, prosecutor Allan Woodward has built up a seemingly open and shut case against her sister. Witness after witness present circumstantial evidence to suggest that Barbara had means, motive and opportunity to commit the crime. One of Woodward's most damaging pieces of testimony is provided by the dead man's fiancée, Sheila Vincent, who places Barbara at the scene of the murder with the murder weapon in her hand. As if Woodward's case were not already a tough enough nut to crack, Edith must also contend with Barbara's apparent confession - a confession she refuses to either retract or clarify.

YOU, THE JURY, the Fall Main Stage production, has all the elements of the classic courtroom drama - the beautiful defendant, two dynamic lawyers, and a string of character types as the witnesses. Unlike most courtroom dramas, no one on stage has the slightest idea what the verdict in this case is going to be prior to ringing down the final curtain. The YOU in YOU, THE JURY refers to the audience which will be the jury in the case. Until the audience votes for guilt or acquittal, the actors in this production are completely in the dark as to which of the two endings to the play they will perform.

Barbara Scott will be played by Giz Tymkiw and her lawyer-sister Edith by Katie Glessner. Jason McQuiddy will portray prosecutor Allan Woodward assisted by Miss Carver played by Amy Schmeig. Witness for and against Barbara include: Robert McPherson played by Jim Lalota; Lewis Rennie played by Matt Straup; Gwendolyn Kelton played by Becky Davidson; Sheila

Vincent played by Angela Welsh; Janice Scott played by Kate Collarini; and Jimmy Perry played by Vincent Miller.

The court personnel are headed up by Judge Thomasine Findlay portrayed by Joanna Bennett. Supporting the Judge will be Clerk of Court Erik Kenerup, Court Stenographer Tammy Wolfgang, Court Bailiff Paul Muscarella and Mrs. Lake portrayed by Stephanie Larison.

Dr. Denys Gary will be directing the production, assisted by stage manager Joey Rosenthal. Dr. Peter Mellen will be designing the set and acting as Technical director. Professor Serafina Kenwood will be designing costumes and Light design will be provided by junior John Teacher.

Performance dates for YOU, THE JURY are November 18-21 at 7:30 each evening.



UNIVERSITY PLAYERS' PERSONALITIES POSTERS

Color Me



♡
Linda ♡

Paper Doll and Coloring Set

The

BACKDROP



Dec. 1992 vol. 4, issue 2

“The Foreigner” Auditions

In the darkness, rain and thunder. As the lights come up, we find ourselves in what was once a living-room of a log farmhouse, now adapted for service as a parlor for paying guests - middle-income summer people, mostly, who come to fish, and swim, and play a little cards at night, and fill up on Betty Meeks' away-from-home cooking. We might think it still a living-room were it not for the presence of a small counter with modest candy and tobacco displays, a guest register, and a bell. Also, there is about one sofa too many ... Though we wouldn't know it from the first two dialects we hear, the fact is that we are in Tilgham County, Georgia, U.S.A. - two hours by good road south out of Atlanta, then pull off at Cooley's Food and Bait and call out for directions. It used to be that Omer Meeks, who owned the lake house, would then have driven down and led you up the hill in his Dodge pickup. But Omer's gone now, and Betty, his widow, doesn't drive.

So read the stage directions which begin Larry Shue's comedy *THE FOREIGNER*, which will be produced March 31 through April 3 as the University Players and Department of Speech Communication and Theatre Arts' Main Stage presentation for Spring of '93.

In discussing casting for the production, director John Gordon noted three areas of concern reflected in the above remarks Shue employs to set the given circumstances of his play. "Though we wouldn't know it from the first two dialects we hear ..." provides the first two areas of concern - the accents of the characters "Froggy" LeSuer and his reticent friend Charlie Baker.

The statement "There is no generic English Accent" certainly holds true for this play. The characters of "Froggy" and Charlie are, in a real sense, reflected in the particular English dialects they employ - dialects that reflect social status as much, or more so, than they do region. "Charlie is distinctly middle class and his patterns of speech illustrate that social and economic standing" states director Gordon. Further, the personality of the character is grounded in his middle class status.

Charlie: *That's why she wanted me to go away, you see. She simply finds me shatteringly, profoundly -boring.*

Froggy: *Now, why would she think that, eh?*

Charlie: *Oh, because I am. I know it. There I've sat behind my grey little proofreader's desk for twenty-seven years now - I sometimes wonder whether a science-fiction magazine even needs a proofreader. Does anyone really care whether there is one K or two in "Klatu, barada, nitko?" I've often wondered - how does one acquire personality?*

cont. next page.

UNIVERSITY PLAYERS' PERSONALITIES POSTERS

As many of you know, John Teacher is both a talented lighting technician and a Medieval fanatic. We were just wondering....

What If?



John Teacher forgot to change
out of his armor during a
lighting session ???

The

BACKDROP

SPECIAL SUMMER EDITION

OPEN RECEPTION TO BEGIN 92-93 SEASON

The LHU Department of speech and Theatre Arts will once again host an Open Reception for students interested in drama. As in years past, the reception will be held in the Countdown Theatre (Room 321 of Sloan Fine Arts Building). The reception, to be held August 31, at 8 PM, provides newcomers to LHU an opportunity to meet the Theatre Faculty and Staff as well as to get to know the present members of the University's student Theatre organization - The University Players.

THE UNIVERSITY PLAYERS is a student organization dedicated to the production of theatre at LHU. With the cooperation of the Department of Speech Communication and Theatre Arts and the U.P.'s parent organization, The Student Cooperative Council, the Players produce one Main Stage and several studio productions per semester. Membership in the University Players is open to all students participating in University Players sponsored productions. Auditions for UP productions are open to all students. Students interested in working backstage, in scenic construction, light rigging or sound are encouraged to contact Dr. Mellen, the Theatre program's Scenic Designer/Technical Director. Students interested in costume construction are urged to contact Prof. Serafina Risalvato, the program's Costume Designer. Any student interested in finding out more about a major or minor in Theatre Arts should contact Prof. John Gordon, Chair of the Department of Speech Communication and Theatre Arts.

You the Jury Needs Actors and Crew Who Want Valuable Stage Experience

The University Players' major production this fall will call for fifteen actors (7 men, 8 women) who are interested in obtaining that valuable theatre ingredient, experience, according to Dr. Denys Gary, director.

He also said that backstage workers of all kinds (set construction, costumes, lights, props, etc.) are needed and provide valuable theatre experience different from acting, but valuable all the same.

Several of the acting roles call for a special kind of acting because

several actors are onstage almost all the time, and some have only a few lines, but in the long run they set the tone for all that happens in the courtroom.

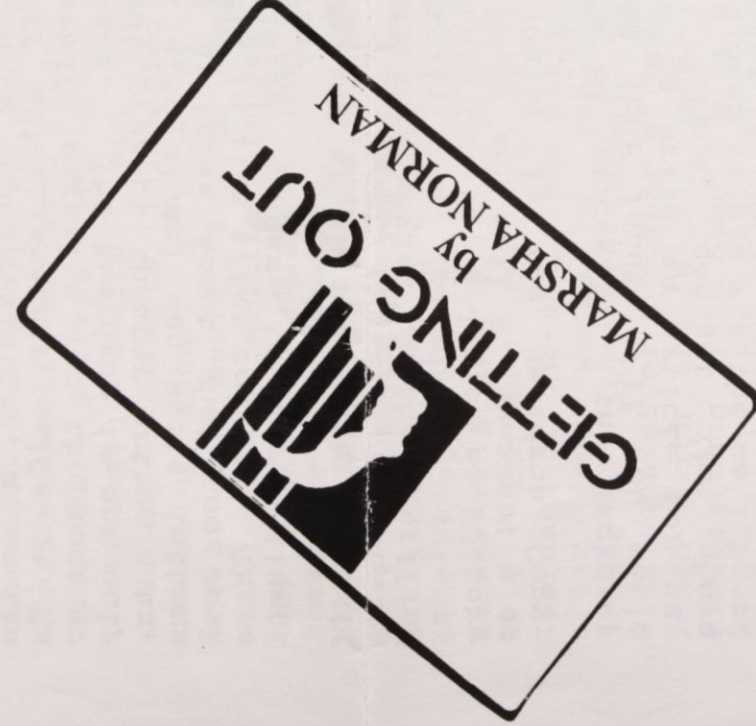
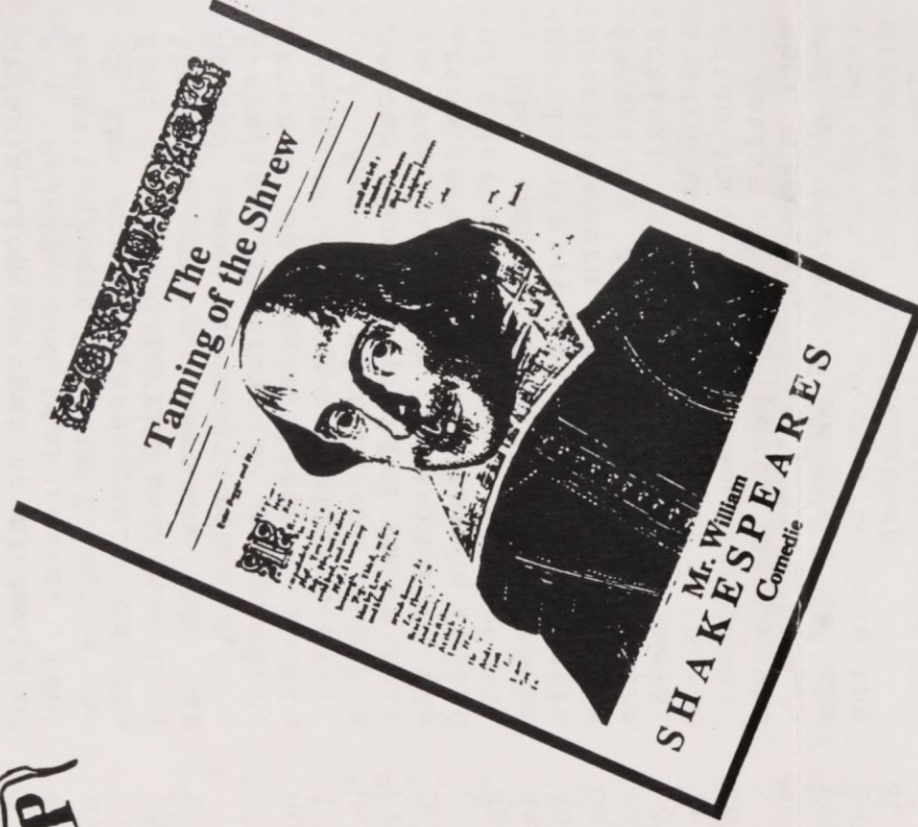
Other roles are character parts and provide challenging opportunities to explore a variety of choices on how to portray these characters.

Then there are the straight roles which offer opportunities to perform the most difficult kind of parts to act.

At any rate, all who interested in theatre should plan to attend auditions on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, September 14, 15, and 16 at 5:00 p.m. in the Sloan Theatre--even if it's just to watch how much fun (and profitable) auditions can be.

Past U.P. Productions

THE MOUSE TRAP



The Lady From *Maxims*

BACKDROP



March 1993, Vol. 4, Issue 3

MAINSTAGE

Foreigner Update

Foreigner Update

Foreigner Update

In a little less than a month the University Players production of Larry Shue's The Foreigner will go up on the Mainstage. The Foreigner is a play about mistaken identity, one man's struggle to build confidence and personality, and the struggle of a small group of people to overcome impossible odds to save the fishing lodge they love so much. The cast is upbeat and have a lot of fun working on the play. Jason Dew, who plays Reverend David in the show and is new to the stage finds acting to be an "inspiring experience that I will wish to pursue in the future."

Jodi Hess, Stage Manager, says "I'm having fun, it's going to be a good show with an excellent cast and crew."

The Play's Geographic and Economic Setting: Betty Meeks' Fishing Lodge by John Gordon

There is no such place in Georgia as Tilghman County.

So, I decided to see if I could find a real county that would have the same type of profile I imagine Tilghman County to have. I undertook this hunt as a way of helping the actors, staff and crew build a reality base for the setting of this play.

After spending some time in the Library looking through maps, atlases and profiles of Counties of Georgia, I selected two counties as possible locations for the Meeks' Fishing Lodge. The counties are further from Atlanta than the "two hour's drive south of that city" mentioned in Shue's stage directions.

According to my reading there seem to be no real good fishing areas located that close to the city of Atlanta. Additionally, many of the counties south of Atlanta would seem to be comparatively well off. Tilghman County seems to me to have a very poor economy and, in turn, a poor tax base. This would suggest that perhaps the school system would be sub-standard. Most of the governmental services would probably be sub-standard as well.

I selected Cook and Brooks counties and contacted the Chambers of Commerce in both county seats. The following is a profile of both counties and, for comparison purposes, our own Clinton county.

	Brooks	Cook	Clinton
	Quitman	Adel	Lock Haven
1. County Seat	491	232	892
2. Land Area In Sq. Miles	15,398	13,456	37,187
3. Population Census 4/90	13	29	48
4. Number of Business	700	1,400	4,800
5. Number of Jobs			

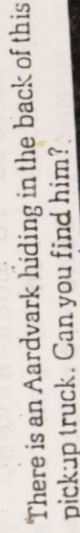
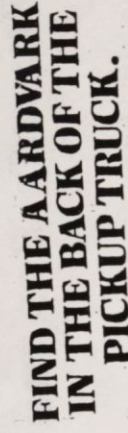
UP Puzzle Page

WORD SEARCH

[illegible]

cat

MAZE!



A 3x3 grid of 9 simple line drawings. The top row contains a bat, a cow, and a bird. The middle row contains a pig, a sphere, and a pig. The bottom row contains a pig, a sphere, and a pig.

UP puzzle Page

BACKDROP



March 1992 Vol. 3 Issue 3

The Lady from Maxim's

George Tobler, University Players President, was recently spotted in a "hot hugging session" with a member of the same organization - Neil Brennen. What goes on here? Are George and Neil a hot item? No. They are both actors whose characters are required to embrace in the upcoming spring mainstage production of *THE LADY FROM MAXIM'S* opening April the eighth. George and Neil assured this reporter that their relationship, both on and off stage, is purely platonic. Oddly enough, the relationship between the General (George) and the Abbe (Neil) is one of the few platonic relationships which exist in script. Being a bedroom farce, *MAXIM'S* does tend to concern itself with ... well ... er ... non-platonic stuff.

Other than sexual innuendoes, the classic French bedroom farce contains mistaken identity, quick chase scenes, narrow escapes and exaggerated character types. All of these elements can be found in George Feydeau's *THE LADY FROM MAXIM'S*. And could we really expect anything less from the writer who defined the genre in his plays *THE HOTEL PARADISO* and *A FLEA IN HER EAR*?

Director Denise Warner describes her approach to the play as "Not unlike dropping the Marx Brothers into the middle of a French version of Roger Rabbit's Toon-Town." The plot of the play revolves around the growing complications, cover-ups, back-flips and out-and-out disasters which develop from a little white lie employed by Dr. Pelypon (Jason McQuiddy) and his friend Mongicourt (Dayne White) to prevent the doctor's wife (Katie Glessner) from discovering his little indiscretion. The little indiscretion's name is Shrimp (Carol Sirney).

Besides doctors, generals, clerics, religious fanatics and prostitutes, the character types we meet in the play range from a charwoman (Joanna Bennett) to a duchess (Angelina Cantolina) and nearly everything in between including Margot and Claude Elysee (Jeannie Clarke and Greg Wilson) who will not only provide music for Act II but also entertainment during intermission. To fill in all the characters requires a cast of over thirty people. Besides those mentioned above the cast includes; Mike White, Iain Owens, Tim Burdick, A.J. Srivastava, John Teacher, Paul Muscarella, Jim Bolcavage, Ryan Ritter, Jason Goldberg, "Giz" Tymkiw, Lisa Fiackos, Charity Bedner, Dunja Sepcic, Cortney Schaefer, Sheila Marsch, Amy Long, Linda Bennett, Angela Welsh, Ceri Collins, Phileshia Dombroske and Devon Bowmaster.

The technical demands of the production pose several challenges to Scene Designer Pete Mellen and Lighting Designer Shelly Callahan and their crews. Revolving walls, interiors shifting to exteriors, fireworks, and chairs of oblivion with chaser lights have all wound up in the designs. Dr. Mellen, after completing the design drafting was heard to comment "I want to run away from home."

-MIKE WHITE



UNIVERSITY PLAYERS'
PERSONALITIES POSTERS



WILL THE REAL RYAN RITTER
PLEASE STEP FORWARD.

The

BACKDROP



May 1992 Vol. 3 Issue 4

Fall Production, *You, the Jury* Invites Audience Participation

When asked why he chose *You, the Jury* for next fall's major production, Dr. Gary said, "Because I've been wanting to do a courtroom drama for several years, now, and this looks like as good a time as any to fulfill a small dream."

Dr. Gary explained, "Before settling on *You, the Jury*, I read all the courtroom plays I could find and decided against them for a variety of reasons, such as cast too large, sets too complex (this usually meant that two or more sets were called for), script too long, etc. Some of these included *A Case of Libel* by Henry Denker, *The Andersonville Trial* by Saul Levitt, *Witness for the Prosecution* by Agatha Christie, *A Shot in the Dark* by Marcel Achard, even *A Man for All Seasons* which has a wonderful courtroom scene (the trial of Sir Thomas More), and other plays.

Dr. Gary said that this play has a lot going for it. "It's a one-set show--obviously a courtroom; it has a convenient number of actors--7 men, 8 women; it has good roles--some strong and steady, others taciturn and petty, and yet others straight realistic characters playing the support services of the court."

The case before the court in *You, the Jury*, involves a murder in which the defendant's attorney is her own sister. "We learn that, before the play begins, the accused has confessed to the crime, and we learn during the course of the trial that murder cases must proceed through trial even if the defendant doesn't want one," Dr. Gary said.

An interesting feature of the play is that the audience is the jury and will be asked to render a verdict based on the evidence they have heard. "The trial proceeds through to the end when the Clerk of Court counts the votes and announces the verdict. The play then comes to a rapid close," Dr. Gary said.

"If one of the characteristics of theatre," Dr. Gary said, "is that a play is temporal, that is, that it exists primarily in time and only once in time -- at the time of performance, then how the actors perform, how the attorneys present their cases will be even more dramatic, for this play occurs truly only once--for a particular jury on a particular night--although almost all of the elements of the drama remain the same from night to night over the length of the run."

As Dr. Gary commented, "This is one mystery play in which you can reveal the ending of the play you saw because it may be different the next night."

UNIVERSITY PLAYERS' PERSONALITIES POSTERS

Now, in theory this should work ..

So help me God, if this thing blows
up and kills me I'll kill you!

Shut up Shelly.

Well Ray, the way I see it, given
that the Earth's gravity field has
a constant pull of 32 G's and the
kerosene heater we are using as our
propellent can produce a maxim lift
of .0037 kilo G's, I'd say our
chances of breaking orbit are about
nil.

Right Karl.

Of course that all depends on which
phase of the moon we happen to be
in. A full moon would severely
impact on all the variables.

What ever you say Karl

Maybe if we all sang "Proud Mary"
that would help.

Shut up Karl

O.K.! Let's batten down the
hatches! Blast off! Swab the decks!
Party On! AAARGGH! SCOW!

SHUT - UP George! And get down here
and clean up the mess you made on
the poop deck!

Kelly, that isn't the Poop deck!
That's the hold.

If you're on it, George, it's a
poop deck.

On a Slow Day in the Scene
Shop a "Special Project" Gets
a Little Out of Hand...

The

BACKDROP



Oct. 1991

Volume 3 Issue 1

Welcome Back

Hello to all of you "theatre-holics." I hope this finds everyone well and looking forward to another year of exciting and challenging theatre at Lock Haven. For those alumni who are reading this terrific issue of "The Backdrop," best wishes to you and yours, keep in touch, and much success to all of your endeavors.

This year should prove to be challenging, "hair-raising," hair tearing, fulfilling, fun, full of opportunities, educational, heart-warming, the list goes on but I won't. The main stage will see a very successful and popular murder mystery this fall in Agatha Christie's *The Mousetrap* and the spring will play host to one of George Feydeau's riotous farces, *The Lady From Maxims*.

Along with our main stage offerings, we will see three Studio productions, four Readers Theatre presentations, one Something Else, and our many social and service activities. It goes without saying, we will be very busy this year. I hope to see all of you involved in one way or another with our activities, however, remember you are a student first and a "theatre-holic" second.

Best wishes to everyone for a happy and successful year. -D.W.



Cast Lists Announced

Box and Cox

Director-Neil Brennan
Stage Manager-Linda Bennett
Box-Todd Benson
Cox-Eric Shaffer
Landlady-Stephanie Woodside

American Century

Director-Dr. Peter Mellen
Stage Manager-Angela Welsh
Man-Jason Kolotouros
Woman-Christa Brigandi
Stranger-Mike White

The Mousetrap

Director-Prof. John Gordon
Stage Manager-Jenn Young
Assistant Stage Manager-Lisa Fiackos
Charity Bednar, Jay McQuiddy,
Stephen Middleton, Stephanie Oaks,
Ben Riley, Elizabeth Tymkiw,
Dayne White, and Thomas Wright.
Michael Brainard and Angela
Welsh are the understudies.

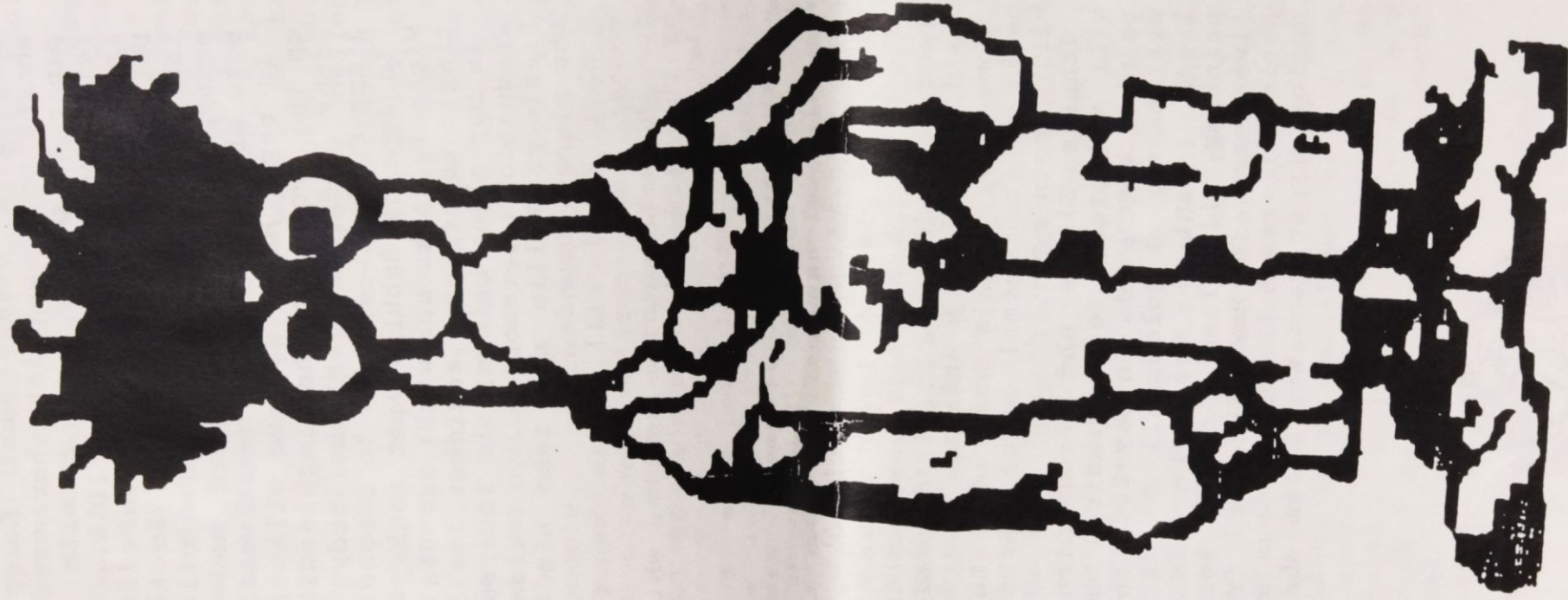
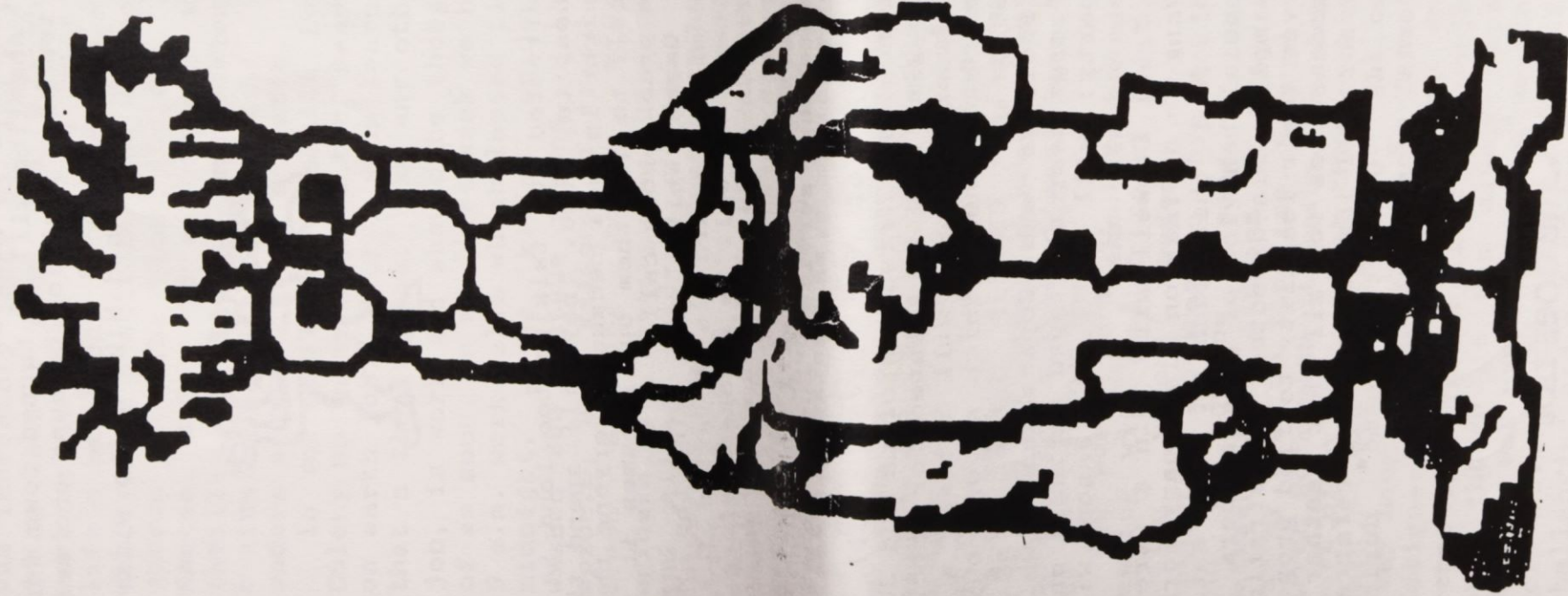
Readers Theatre Cast
Glory in the Daytime
Narrator-Stephanie Oaks
Mrs. Murdock-Amy Coles
Alter Ego-Amy Long
Mr. Murdock-Neil Brennan
Hallie Noyes-Cortney Shaefer
Lily Wynton-Angelina Cantolina

Director - Denys Gary

The Secret Life of Walter Mitty
Narrator-Greg Wilson
Walter Mitty-Michael Brainard
Mrs. Mitty-Stephanie Oaks
Voice No. 1-Neil Brennan
Voice No. 2- Cortney Shaefer
Voices 3 and 4-George Tobler

University Players' Personalities

Posters



On the Right, Mike White
On the Left, Beaker
Mere Coincidence? Separated at Birth?
OR Genetic Engineering Gone Mad???
You Be the Judge.

Dear Present and Past University Players,

Well, gosh folks, howdee and how the heck are ya?

It's July fourth, birthday of our great republic as well as my cousin Philbert's birthday. He is under the impression all the fireworks are for him. This was amusing until he turned 30 and now it's simply something the family doesn't like to talk about. But Philbert is neither here nor there (trust me on this one).

I am writing to remind one and all (yes, even you) that, although summer is only half over, the beginning of our 1992-1993 Season fast approaches (or "approacheth" as Willy Shakespeare was wont to say). While classes do not begin until August 27, anyone interested in directing during the Studio #1 slot must have their proposals into me by August 5.

Studio #1 is a standard slot geared to one act plays. Auditions for Studio #1 will be held September 1-3 and performance dates are Sept. 30 through Oct. 3. Send one copy of your script and your directing proposal by Aug. 5 to: Dr. Mellen, Speech-Theatre Dept., Sloan Fine Arts Bld., LHU, Lock Haven, PA. 17745.

Other dates you might wish to start thinking about now include:

- Aug 31 our TH121 organizational meeting takes place at 7 pm and is followed at 8 pm by our OPEN RECEPTION.
- Sept 14-16 Main Stage auditions for YOU, THE JURY begin at 5 pm. Scripts will be on reserve at the Library upon your return.
- Sept 21 Studio #2 proposals are due.
- Sept 21-26 Something Else Week.

SUMMER THEATRE AT LHU

And this summer we are doing a production of SUPPRESSED DESIRES here on campus. The play is a one-act comedy which reinforces the old saying "A little Knowledge is a dangerous thing." The play concerns Henrietta Brewster's new found blind faith in psychoanalysis and the havoc it recks on the lives of her husband Stephen and her sister Mabel. Henrietta is played by alumni Christa Birgandi, Stephen is played by Greg Wilson and Carol Sirney plays the role of Mabel. Performances for SUPPRESSED DESIRES are July 17 and 18 at 7:30 pm on Sloan Main Stage (and we do mean on the Main

THE BACKDROP

VOLUME 1 ISSUE 1

JUNE 1990

LOCK HAVEN UNIVERSITY PLAYERS



HELLO UNIVERSITY PLAYERS !!

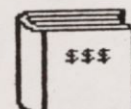
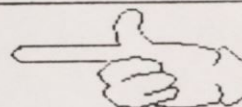
Hope everyone is enjoying their summer. I have heard from a few of you and, as usual it sounds like everyone is keeping real busy.

This is the first of many newsletters to come. I hope to broaden our lines of communication with "The Backdrop." I anticipate publishing one per month and ask for any and all contributions you may want included—articles, notices, announcements, and the like. Just drop me a line by the 15th of each month and let me know what you've got so I can include it.

—David Holt

The Backdrop
504 Lindsay Ct.
Sterling, VA 22170 (703) 444-9476

important notice



The University is withholding registration from anyone who still has unpaid library fines. Please contact the library at 717-893-2311 to ensure that you'll be with us next semester.

ADD THESE ADDRESSES TO YOUR SUMMER LIST:

JENNIFER PANDICH 1017 Mandarin Blvd
Charlotte, NC 28205

PERRY GRUVER 1031 E Paradise Ave
Visalia, CA 93277

STEVE MIDDLETON & MIKE PARLETT
44 N Circle Wood Glen
The Woodlands, TX 77381

CAROLE SIRNEY & SHANNON PRINGLE
1110 Summer Honors Program
Slippery Rock University (TII 7/6/90)
Slippery Rock, PA 16057

EBBIE MARKOWITZ
c/o S.A.T.
P.O. Box 620
Harris Hill, NC 28754

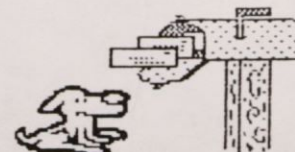
MARK THOMAS
2648 N Wood Ave
Easton, PA 18042

ROBIN STROUSE &
HELLY CALLAHAN
3019 A O'Daniel Ln
Evansville, IN 47712

DENISE WARNER
1447 E Saginaw
Lansing, MI 48906

c/o LORY FEDOR:

RAIC YOUNG
TEVE ZOLDI
EWIN LOPATA
GEORGE NAZI
BRIAN SMITH



CALL BOARD

CALENDAR OF EVENTS & REMINDERS

- JULY 1 DEADLINE!! STUDIO #1 & #2 PROPOSALS
STUDIO 1-REGULAR ONE ACT
STUDIO 2-FULL LENGTH/EXTENDED
- AUG 10 BOARD DECISION-STUDIO #1
- SEPT 6 IMPROVISATION WORKSHOP
GIVEN BY "AUTHORIZED PERSONNEL"
SPONSORED BY SPEECH/THEATRE DEPARTMENT
7:00 - 9:00 PM
- SEPT 17-21 SOMETHING ELSE WEEK
OLD MEMBERS ESPECIALLY
ENCOURAGED TO BRING PIECES TO
BE READ AND PERFORMED BY NEW
AND OLD MEMBERS--ORIGINAL
WORKS, NEW PIECES, POSSIBLE
PROPOSALS, AND THE LIKE.

ALPHA PSI OMEGA SHIRTS ARE IN !



If you are in the Lock Haven area, and ordered an Alpha Psi Omega T-shirt, you may pick it up from Lory Fedor. If the summer doesn't bring you to Lock Haven, Lory will have the shirts awaiting your arrival in the fall.

John Gordon has expanded script library

John Gordon has increased the volume of scripts on hand in the library within his office. University Players may browse upon their return to campus in the fall.

Shannon Pringle
wishes to send love
to all that she didn't get to
say goodbye to before leaving
after spring semester and
departing to Europe this year.



CURTAIN CALL

WANTED: YOUR BABY PICTURE

Please start digging through old photo albums now for your favorite baby picture. We will be holding our annual baby picture contest when we return in the fall. Please remember to bring your photos to school when you return.

Stage as the audience will be seated on stage). If you are in the area, please drop over and join us.

OTHER NEWS AND NOTES

I heard from Denise Warner the other day. Her production of HOW I GOT THAT STORY went up at the Michigan Rep. in late June. Although the production at times looked like it might take a left turn into the technical twilight zone everything got straightened away and the show had a very successful and enjoyable run. Tommy Gomez and Joe Stump, our visiting artists last Spring, were in Denises' production. She is now at work designing costumes for THE TEMPEST.

The Pennsylvania Renaissance Faire in Manheim has opened. The Faire is open week ends through Oct., so if you are in the area drop by and visit Merideth Miller who works there. And then you can drop by and see George Tobler who just happens to live in Manheim. (George is officially an alumni now, I know this because he referred to "those damn college kids" when I spoke to him recently. Oh how soon they forget).

And, if you are in the Manheim area you might as well drive a little farther and visit Cortney Schaefer at Mt. Gretna. Cortney reports that, in addition to performing her management duties for MT. Gretna productions she has been given the opportunity to learn to love camping. Theatre in the woods -can't be beat. MT. Gretna has a full season of plays and musicals running through mid -August.

Mike White, working as props master for the Kent State summer theatre program in Ohio sends his love to all and this bit of advise "Don't ever go driving in Cleveland, Ohio. I got lost there! Can you believe it?"

Jeannie Clarke is counting trees in Huntington PA this summer. She is being paid by the government to do this. Jeannie says "hey" to one and all. She would also like everyone to keep in mind that the Backdrop will need writers this Fall.

Speaking of the Backdrop -- please send us post cards of where you are this summer (or, for those of you have actually been some place -where you went). Even if you are staying in your own home town this summer - send us a post card from there. We'll either publish them or use them for coasters. One of the two.

Linda Bennett called to say "Hi." Everybody say "Hi, Linda."

Well, I could go on but A) I've run out of news and B) my traditional fourth of July Turkey Pot Pie just exploded in the oven and my kitchen is now on fire, so I've got to go.

Warmest regards,

Pete Mellen

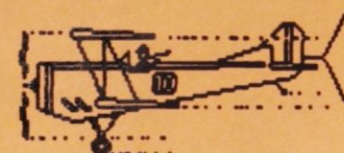
THE BACKDROP

LOCK HAVEN UNIVERSITY PLAYERS



VOLUME 1 ISSUE 2 AUGUST 1990

SECOND ISSUE !!



SPRING SHOW RETITLED

Can you believe it? only a few short weeks of summer left. Well, here it is--the second issue of The Backdrop. I received a lot of positive feedback from the first and am really excited about the possibilities in store for the newsletter.

I do plan to continue the newsletter regularly throughout the school year. In addition, I would like to put out a special "Year Overview" issue as soon as classes get going. I want your insights and ideas. After September 1st, The Backdrop's office will move to 146 East Water Street, Apartment #4, Lock Haven, PA 17745. Items may also be addressed to The Backdrop and left on the callboard.

Enjoy the last few weeks of summer and have a safe trip back to Lock Haven, see ya there !

-David Holt

Stevenson Sends Thanks

Stevenson Library wishes to thank all those University Players who sent in their library fines. Not only is the library pleased, but the Players are glad to know that you'll be with us next semester.

DON'T FORGET YOUR FAVORITE BABY PICTURE



The University Players will once again be sponsoring their annual baby picture contest this fall. All members are encouraged to bring their favorite, or not so favorite, photos with them when they return to school in September. Once compiled, the photos will be displayed so that others can attempt to match them with their owners.

Dr. Denys Gary's mainstage proposal for the spring semester, originally entitled, Man's Search for Meaning, has been renamed. The publicity for the spring mainstage will now read: Out of the Ashes from the work of Leon Thorne, adapted by Dr. Denys Gary. The piece, already approved by the University Player's Board has been approved for production by the author of the original work from which Dr. Gary will be creating his adaptation for the stage. With this final approval confirmed, the show can now be officially scheduled for the spring semester.

BEST OF LUCK

Our graduates will be terribly missed this year. Matt Lovlie, Robin Strouse, Maureen Campbell, Debbie Markowitz, & Jen Dailey, Best of luck in your future endeavors and careers.

This year we will also be without the company of our overseas students.

Sanjiva Cooke, Shannon Pringle, Angela Welsh, & Carol Sirney. Keep in touch, we will be thinking of you !!

Neil Brennen Wants to See any U.P. member attending the Philadelphia Folk Festival.

The festival is August 26th - 29th at the Old Poole Farm in Schwenksville. Please write or call him at
404 Bridge Sreet
Collegeville, PA 19426
(215) 287-5134

SEE CALENDAR ON BACK

February 1991

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	Artist series in Countdown 3:30 pm and 8:00 pm. 8	9
General Meeting 6:00 pm 10					Artist Series in Countdown at 3:30pm and 8:00pm 15	16
17	Two months till Mainstage opens 18	3:30 Production Meeting for Mainstage 19	Slot 4 decision/ASHES rehearsals begin. 20	21	Artist series in Countdown 3:30pm and 8:00pm. 22	Technical Rehearsal for Slot three 23
Tech Slot three. Gen. Mtg 6:00pm 24	Dress Rehearsal Slot three 25	Dress Rehearsal Slot three 26	Slot three Opens 8:00pm Countdown 27	Slot three run 8:00 pm 28		

March 1991

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					Slot three 8:00pm Countdown 1	Slot three closes 8:00 Pm Countdown 2
Auditions Slot four. Times TBA 3	Auditions Slot four. Times TBA 4	Auditions Slot four. Times TBA 5	6	7	8	9
10	Spring Break Begins 11	12	13	14	15	16
17	One month till Mainstage 18	19	20	21	22	23
General Meeting 6:00pm 24	25	26	27	28	Technical rehearsal Slot four 29	Technical Rehearsal Slot four. 30
Technical rehearsal Slot four 31						

THE BACKDROP

LOCK HAVEN UNIVERSITY PLAYERS

VOLUME 2 ISSUE 1 FEBRUARY 1991



1990 was an extremely successful year for University Players. The group watched itself change and expand in ways that it might not have predicted.

The Studio Season of University Players added a fourth night of performances to accommodate the ever increasing audiences that have taken to attending the student productions.

The year might have been coined the year of the student playwright, as U.P. members took a step off the stage to take pen in hand. Christa Brigandi showed us the *Colors* within

ourselves, Trish Cantolina taught us that hope is the key in "The Key to the Attic", and Neil Brennen explained how even one person can make a difference, even if we are all **Part of the Problem**.

The organization took to trying new things in '90 with the addition of Something Else Week and Individual Insights. Something Else provided a week of experimental theatre, allowing new faces to shine and old faces to be seen in a different light. Individual Insights, formerly known as Poetry Reading, allowed individuals to present both original and classical prose and poetry in a coffeehouse setting.

In addition, several University Player members went out on a limb to present their own independent productions. Debbie Markowitz brought us "Canterbury Tales" while Steve Zoldi directed "Part of the Problem" as part of the Earth Day activities.

All in all University Players presented fifteen plays in 1990 including "Asleep on the Wind," "Graceland", "Sailing", "Scooter Thomas Makes it to the Top of the World", "Attack of the Moral Fuzzies", "Zoo Story", "Part of the Problem", *The Murder Room*, "Canterbury Tales", "Actors", "Sherlock Holmes: Ten Minutes to Doom", *A Streetcar Named Desire*, "Colors", and "The Key to the Attic".

University Players took on new meaning as it developed several service projects for the community surrounding our haven. The organization bowed to raise funds for the hungry, improvised for parents, colored eggs for children, went Christmas caroling, sent goods to our soldiers in the Middle East, and raised awareness about environmental apathy.

The year 1990 certainly proved to be an exciting one, and 1991 is sure to be even more exciting. The year has begun on a serious note, asking us to consider human cruelty in *Out of the Ashes* and "Statements After an Arrest Under the Immorality Act". In addition we will take a look at lost and found love in "A Need for Brussel Sprouts" and "Than Never to Have Loved at All". All of this and we've only just begun. Places Everyone!

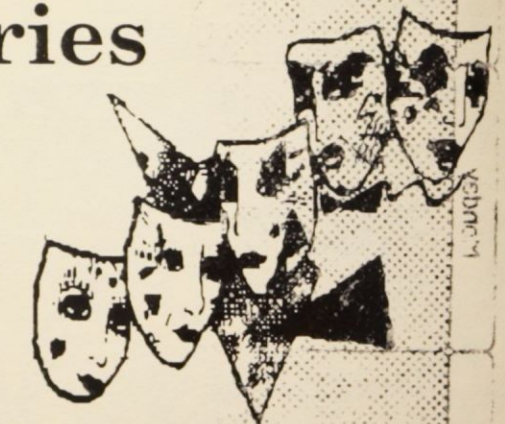
Guest Artists Series

The theatre department is sponsoring a series of workshops on Fridays during the month of February. These workshops and lectures feature professionals from the world of theatre who will be discussing what it's like out there in the "real world".

On Feb 15, costume designer and technician Serafina Risalvato will discuss what it takes to be a professional designer and how to "break into" the business. Risalvato has been active in theatre in New York and is now part of the Lock Haven faculty, teaching at the Clearfield campus.

On Feb 22, actor Christopher Shaw will be holding an afternoon workshop to teach students techniques to aid them in preparing for performance. That evening Shaw will discuss how to select a good actors training program and describe how one can survive as an actor in the world of professional theatre. Shaw has extensive experience working as an actor in *The Big Apple*.

These speakers will present two workshops each. An afternoon session will begin at 3:30 pm with an evening session at 8:00 P.M.. Both programs will be held in the Countdown Theatre. Although portions of each program may be geared towards Theatre majors, everyone is encouraged to attend as even non-theatre majors have much to gain from these presentations.



U.P. On The Air



The campus radio station is sounding more familiar than ever as U.P. members get involved with WLHU. On the top are Brian Smith, managing the station and Ryan Ritter as music director. But more boldly than ever before, U.P. has taken to the airways. Here is a partial list of U.people "rockin' the mic and spinnin' the wheels of steel".

Joanna Bennett and Lory Fedor: 10:30 P.M. - 1:00 A.M. Wednesday.

George Tobler and Mike White: 10:30 P.M.-1:00 A.M. Thursday.

Ryan Ritter: 7:00-9:00 A.M. Thursday

Brian Smith: 8:00-10:30 P.M. Sunday.

Tad Masteller: 10:30 P.M.-1:00 A.M. Sunday

Steve Brutzman and Mark Watson: 5:30-8:00 P.M. Monday.

Anyone interested in working with the radio station should contact Brian or Ryan.

New Faces Add To U.P. Talent

You may be seeing new faces around Sloan Theater these days. Please be sure to introduce yourself to Sundeep Kalsi, Matthew Sullivan, Lisa Fiackos, Stacy Davis, Greg Wilson, Maxx Stoyanoff-Williams, Marie Skwier, Deb Daniels, and Roger Elling. Sunny and Matt are cast in *Out of the Ashes*. Stacy and Lisa are stage managing "Statements After an Arrest Under the Immorality Act" with Greg, Maxx, and Marie forming the cast. Deb, Matt, and Roger are appearing in "Than Never to Have Loved at All".

Theatre Quote of the Month

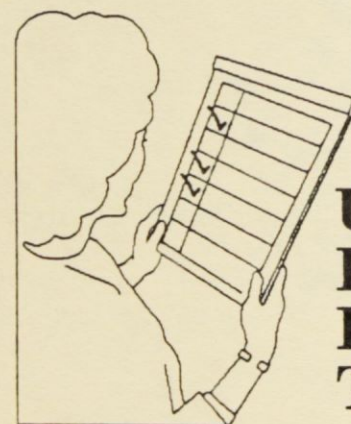
"It's incredible! The stage, it makes miracles of people!" -Jason Goldberg (when asked how it felt to have completed his first show here).

Innovative U.P. Fund-Raising

Belinda Bodo has resigned as Fundraising Chair. The new fund-raising director for University Players is Stephen Middleton. His "Right hand man" is George Tobler.

Steve is working on lots of interesting ideas including a bowl-a-thon or a rock-a-thon for a charity fund and a 50/50 raffle with Alpha Psi Omega. Once approved, the length of the raffle will last for two weeks. The drawing would be held in the evening and announced live by WLHU's Disc Jockeys. 50% of the funds would be given to the winner of the raffle. 25% of the remaining would go to University Players and the other 25% to Alpha Psi Omega.

The organization is always looking for additional ideas as we can never get enough funds, so please be sure to share any ideas with Steve or George.



University Players Elections To Be Held

Elections for next year's University Players Board Members will be held soon. If you are interested in running for a position on the Board speak with a Board Member about the responsibilities of the position you are interested in. All offices are up for election at the end of the semester except for the position of Historian, which is appointed.

From Stage to Pen...

If you open the latest issue of *The Crucible*, Lock Haven University's Literature magazine, you will notice some very familiar names to University Players. The poetry of Linda Bennett, Ryan Ritter, and Steve Zoldi are among the contributions to the Fall/Winter issue. *The Crucible* can be picked up from most faculty members of the English department.

Cast Lists Announced

Out of the Ashes

Director-Dr. Denys Gary

Stage Manager-David Holt

Assistant Stage Manager-Jen Young

Cast includes: Linda Bennett,

Neil R. Brennen, Angelina Cantolina, Sanjiva Cooke,

Jason A. Goldberg,

Sundeep Kalsi, Stephen Middleton,

Stephanie Oaks, Cortney Schaefer,

Matthew Sullivan, Irfan Tareen,

Mark Thomas, Elizabeth Tymkiw,

and Angela Welsh.

"A Need for Brussel Sprouts"

Director-Michael J. White

Stage Manager-Joanna Bennett

Cast includes: Shelly Callahan

and Stephen Middleton.

"Than Never to Have Loved at All"

Director-Ryan Ritter

Stage Manager-Laura Minnick

Cast includes: Marybeth Albano,

Deb Daniels, Roger Elling, Esther Oakley,

Matthew Sullivan, and George Tobler

"Statements After an Arrest Under the Immorality Act"

Director-Craig Young

Assistant Director-Muthoni Muturi

Stage Managers-Stacy Davis

and Lisa Fiackos

Cast includes: Marie Skwier,

Maxx Stoyanoff-Williams, and Greg Wilson.

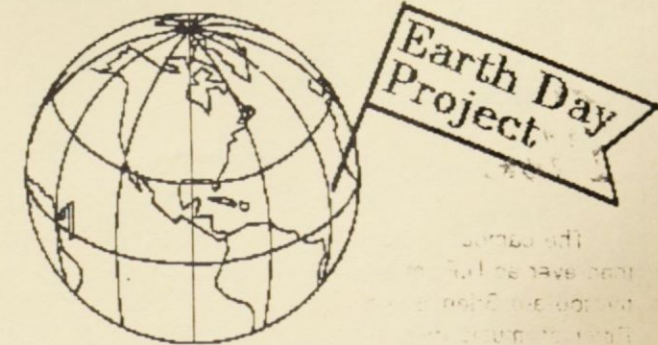
Welcome Back

University Players is welcoming back two of our members from foreign exchanges. Angela Welsh has returned from England and Sanjiva Cooke has returned from Scotland. Still in France are Shannon Pringle and Carol Sirney, who will be returning in the fall.

Our newest overseas adventurers are Traci Capwell and John Teacher, who are in England, and Michael Parlett, who is leaving for Australia on the fifteenth of February. We look forward to the return of John, Traci, Mike, Shannon, and Carol, next semester.

Traci Capwell's address in England is: C/O University of Reading, Bulmershe Court, Mitford 52, Earley, Reading, RG6-1HY, England

John Teacher can be contacted through Traci.



University Players is once again participating in the campus Earth Day events. Neil Brennen is trying to arrange a presentation of "Part of the Problem"; Christa Brigandi needs people who are interested in doing an improv for Earth Day, and Craig Young wants to do a children's show. Please contact Neil, Christa, or Craig if you are interested in being "part of the solution" to the environmental crisis we live in. Please bear in mind Earth Day is April twentieth, the same day that *Out of the Ashes* closes.

Independent Project Mounted

'Statements After an Arrest Under the Immorality Act'

Craig Young will be producing and directing an independent project this semester with the University Players' support. Craig is directing "Statements After An Arrest Under the Immorality Act". The one-act play is an intense drama focusing on the racial struggles in South Africa as experienced through the love of an inter-racial couple.

Craig is looking for people to assist him with his production of Athol Fugard's play. People are needed for publicity, lights, props, sound, and costumes. Please contact Craig or one of his stage managers, Lisa Fiackos or Stacy Davis if you are interested in being part of this important piece of theatre.

Neil Brennen has some informal photos of selected members of the cast of "Colors". As there are no cast photos from this show this may be your only chance to have a photo from "Colors". Contact Neil if you are interested in purchasing a reprint.