

# Actresses develop friendships, comedy in 'Vanities'

"Vanities" is a good, solid comedy which never allows two of its three actors to develop into three-dimensional people.

The story begins in 1963 with the girls as high school seniors and cheerleaders preparing for the big game. The second act, five years later, sees them as college seniors preparing rush activities for their sorority and facing graduation. The final act has them in the real world after being apart for some years. Friends at the beginning of the play, by the end they are at each others' throats.

The play is often hilarious in its depiction of the girls through time, particularly showing cheerleader and sorority life. A typical example of the comedy is the announcement in 1963 that "The President" has been shot. The girls scream and one says, "But I just saw him in study hall!"

Of course, they soon realize that it is Kennedy — not the student council president — who has been killed. Even better, the football game will go on. Moments like this abound.

The most frustrating thing about this play, for both the audience and the actresses, is that two of the

## Andrew Lawler Theater

characters are written as very one-dimensional.

This is most true in the case of Joanne, played by Stacy Evans. This character has only two drives: she loves her friends and she wants to be a homemaker. Being given the impossible task of trying to bring this stereotypical and flat character to life, Evans is to be commended for the moments of life she manages to pump into this extremely difficult character.

Angela Coin is also saddled with the limiting character of Mary, but she is allowed more space for growth. She makes the most of it turning in by far the most energetic performance in the play. She is at her best in the first and second acts, as she shows obvious and real growth between the acts, a chance denied Evans' character.

However, in the third act, Coin's character is merely refined. Her role

becomes merely that of shock value, especially against Joanne. This comes across as somewhat artificial, again not apparently due to the performance but to the frustrating nature of the script. In spite of this disappointing development, Coin turns in an enjoyable performance.

Laurie Dhue has been given the most flexible and three-dimensional character of all of them, and she is excellent. She changes visibly with each act. She gives us some touching and realistic moments — especially at the end of the second act. In perhaps the most genuinely touching moment of the play, Dhue shows real fear as her character contemplates life beyond college. This is all the more effective because many in the audience will be worrying about the same thing. She shows what the play could have been if all the characters were written so well. Dhue gives a subtle, touching performance.

In spite of the drawbacks of the play, the three actresses manage to create an excellent relationship together. We never doubt the sincerity of their love for each other in the first and second acts. They undeni-

ably seem to be best friends. This makes the third act all the more poignant as the three, apart for years, try to bridge the gaps. Their failure and the fireworks that result create an almost uncomfortably painful conclusion.

Director John Bland is to be credited, as well as the actresses, for the seemingly real friendship that appears to exist between the characters. Obviously, a great deal of work was spent on this. This, over and

above individual performances, is the best achievement of the play.

The staging of the play is for the most part good, although the blocking has its static and unimaginative moments. One particularly frustrating moment has a character with her back to three-fourths of the audience for almost half of an act. Bland uses make-up tables at the back to good effect as punctuation to the scenes.

Technically, the show is excellent. The lighting is superb and approp-

riate. The costumes are well-chosen, and Bland's use of music between the scenes is very effective in highlighting the change of times.

Vanities will be performed at 4 p.m. and 8 p.m. on Monday and at 5 p.m. on Tuesday. Performances are in 06 Graham Memorial, the Lab Theatre. As performances can fill up quickly, people are encouraged to sign up for reservations in Graham Memorial as soon as possible.

## Campus Calendar

The DTH Campus Calendar is a daily listing of University-related activities sponsored by academic departments, student services and student organizations officially recognized by the Division of Student Affairs. To appear in Campus Calendar, announcements must be submitted on the Campus Calendar form by NOON one business day before the announcement is to run. Saturday and Sunday events are printed in Friday's calendar and must be submitted on the Wednesday before the announcement is to run. Forms and a drop box are located outside the DTH office, 106 Union. Items of interest lists ongoing events from the same campus organizations and follows the same deadline schedule as Campus Calendar. Please use the same form.

### Monday

**Noon** Dept. of Medical Allied Health Professions will present Dr. David Yoder and David Koppenhauer on "Literacy and the Multihandicapped Augmentative Communications User." The lecture, part of the DMAHP Research Colloquium Series, will be held in 106 Berryhill.

**2 p.m.** University Career Planning and Placement Services will hold Career Action Plan, to help develop a personalized action plan to map out

skills needed to prepare for a career, in 306 Hanes.

**3 p.m.** UCPSS will have a basic informational meeting for seniors and graduate students on how to use the UCPSS office in 210 Hanes.

**3:30 p.m.** Lab Theater will hold auditions until 11 p.m. for its second set of shows in 208 Graham Memorial. Audition forms can be picked up in Graham Memorial.

**4 p.m.** Lab Theater will present Jack Heifner's "Vanities" in 06 Graham Memorial. Reservations may be made in the sign up sheet; a second performance will follow at 8 p.m.

**4:30 p.m.** Rape Action Project will have an organizational meeting in the Union, for all those interested in the issues and education concerning date and acquaintance rape. Check the Union desk for room number.

**Women's Studies Program** will have a reception to meet feminist scholars Dr. Lois Hombold, Dr. Karla

Holloway, and Dr. Wendy Luttrell in Toy Lounge, Day Hall.

**6 p.m.** Women's Lacrosse Club will practice at Finley Fields.

**7 p.m.** Campus Y Nursing Home Committee will meet in Campus Y lounge.

**UNC MUG**, Macintosh Users' Group, will meet in 014 Sitterson. Presentation Technologies, Inc. will demonstrate their new Montage film recorder, and Michael Freedberg will discuss System 6.0. No UNC affiliation is required to attend.

**UNC Circle K** will meet in 210 Union.

**GLOBAL Issues/GABA** will have Dr. Stephen Mumford, head of the Center for Research on Population and Security, speak on "The Holy War Against Family Planning," in the Campus Y lounge.

**7:30 p.m.** UNC Equestrian Club will meet in 213 Union. Those who want to show on Oct. 14 must attend to complete entry forms. Students for the Ethical Treatment

of Animals will sponsor John Robbins, author of "Diet for a New America," in a lecture in 100 Hamilton.

**8 p.m.** Amnesty International will meet at the Newman Center, at 218 Pittsboro St. This month's agenda includes plans for Human Rights Week, Children's Campaign, Urgent Actions, Colombia and Brazil country campaigns, and our Syrian prisoner of conscience. All are welcome.

**8:30 p.m.** Fellowship of Christian Athletes will meet in 208-209 Union. Gary Newell will speak on sex and dating. Everyone is welcome.

**11 p.m.** WXYC FM 89.3 will play the new album from Billy Bragg, "Workers Playtime," in its entirety with no interruptions.

### Items of Interest

Carolina Union Gallery presents will sculpture in stainless steel, brass and aluminum by Lila Katzen.



DTH/Jane Bowman

The women of "Vanities" contemplate life-after-college in John Bland's production

## Stipend

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Institute. UVa's provost office adopted the federal minimum wage of \$3.35 per hour, but the College of Arts and Sciences established its own minimum of \$9.90 per hour, said Carol Davis, administrative assistant to the dean of the faculty of arts and sciences at UVa.

"We don't want our departments to take advantage of the students by paying them too low," she said. "If they don't want to pay the minimum we suggest, we require a justification." Denni said UNC stipends are so

low that outside financial support is essential, especially for married students and those with children.

"Teaching is great," he said. "It's good experience in the classroom. But it's getting harder and harder."

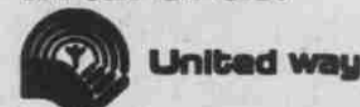
Sweeney agreed. "If you teach five sections — if you can survive that — you can almost eat," she said. "People over 30 are hard-pressed to go to Mama."

Dearman said the ability to draw graduate students to UNC affected the quality of education.

"It's a matter of attracting the best

students and the best teachers," he said. "The number and quality of graduate students is determined by the academic reputation of the departments and by the number and quality of the graduate positions."

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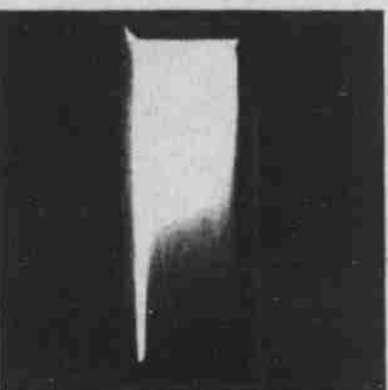
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