

'Vanities' explores complexities of friendships

University play incorporates a variety of female character traits staged during a feminist movement

BY AMY LICHTY
PULSE REPORTER

Friendships between women can be wonderful, yet strange. For high school females, friends are among the highest priorities. Old friendships fade as new ones begin. "Vanities," presented by the University Theatre and opening Oct. 27, follows the friendship of three girls through a tumultuous time in

history — the 1960s and '70s — and watches their lives change and grow.

"Vanities" begins in 1963. As high school cheerleaders, Kathy, Mary and Joanne are beautiful, popular and the best of friends. First, the audience sees them shaken as they hear about the assassination of President Kennedy. The play then follows them through college, as sorority sisters in

the era of the Vietnam War, and finally, as independent adults.

Sophomore theater major Jeannie Hou plays Mary, a sassy, wild character who travels the world and follows her dreams.

"(Mary) is the one in the play who probably changes the most," Hou said. "She goes out and sees the world and steps out of the little town."

Senior theater major Bethany Mason plays Joanne, the conservative, uptight girl who becomes a happy homemaker wannabe.

"She's always trying to get validation from the other girls," director

BE THERE

What: "Vanities"
Where: Arena Theatre in Villard Hall
When: Oct. 27-30 and Nov. 4-6
Tickets can be purchased for \$4 at the University Ticket Office

Elizabeth Helman said. "But she's the nice one of the three and grows up doing what she thinks she's supposed to do in terms of what's expected of women in the late '50s and early '60s."

Senior business major Lauren Olson is Kathy, the head cheerleader.

"She looks back on her life and doesn't see much value in it," Olson said. "But she does see the value of the friendships between the girls."

The differences in the characters show what it means to them to be women during the time of a feminist movement. Mary takes risks to fulfill

her life as much as possible, while Joanne plays the part of "good wife and mother" but keeps secrets. And Kathy is a cross between the two.

"I think everyone has a bit of each of these girls in them," Hou said.

Helman said she hopes to open women's eyes through the play.

"So many young women who come to college think that feminism is such a bad thing," Helman said. "But it isn't. The fact that they are in college is because of women before who have made sacrifices. But it's always so sticky in any decade to be a woman."

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Residence hall dwellers can make dorms more home-like

Trendy decorations can be used to save space, make bare walls more vibrant

BY NATASHA CHILINGERIAN
SENIOR PULSE REPORTER

On move-in day, residence hall dwellers faced the reality of bare, tiny rooms staring back at them. Now that students have lived in the halls for about a month, their rooms are starting to look more like home, and some have pulled off a trendy decorating look as well. The keys to making a plain dorm room look classy and comfortable are the right accessories and space-enhancing storage techniques.

University freshman Sarah Smith, who lives in Carson Hall, adorned her room with posters featuring The Beatles, Marilyn Monroe and the film "Ferris Bueller's Day Off." Smith's room also features blue string lights with green tassels and a hot pink comforter to match her roommate's hot pink sheets. She said posters and photo collages are popular in the halls and that decorations are essential, considering how the rooms look before move-in day.

"It's so ugly when you first get here," she said. "It's like a mental institution if you don't decorate."

Access to cute room accessories is close to campus — West Moon on 13th Avenue carries an assortment of trendy, bohemian-style accents. West Moon sales associate Nancy Haskins said the most popular sellers with college kids are paper lanterns, tapestries and oriental



LAUREN WIMER | SENIOR PHOTOGRAPHER

Trendy decorations, including lights and posters, are prevalent in a Carson Hall room.

rugs. The store also sells bed canopies, large oriental fans, hanging door beads, paper ceiling umbrellas and candles. Haskins said tapestries can be used to cover beds, as wall hangings and even as curtains. She added that many of West Moon's items can help make a dorm room look not so pint-sized.

"Bed canopies draw the eye up, so you're not so contained," she said. "(To make a room look bigger), be very wall-hanging-oriented as opposed to using big, bulky furniture. Think accessorizing instead of decorating."

Sales associate Kara Merrill, who works at Toko Asia at the Fifth Street Public Market, recommends putting up mirrors, leaving windows unblocked and keeping everything organized to make the most of a small space. Toko Asia carries colorful storage

baskets, vibrant candle holders and silk pillows, all of which are dorm room friendly. She said the use of bright color reflects current decorating trends.

"In small spaces, people tend to pick their signature color and use it to create small, vibrant spaces," she said. "That way, you don't have to buy that many things. People will come in and buy three or four bright red things."

Merrill said filling bowls with rice and candles or glass stones and water is another decoration trend. Toko Asia also sells meditation pillows and woven vinyl place mats, which a few customers have used as wall hangings.

According to online publication Rental Decorating Digest (www.rentaldecorating.com), students can easily spice up dorm

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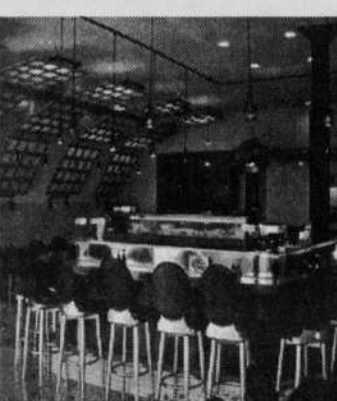
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