

The Arts

Art imitates life in political drama Curtain to rise on Vidal's 'Best Man'

By DeAnn Dietrich
Of The Print

"Ecstatic" is the word Director Jack Shields used to describe his feelings about the theater department's spring production, "The Best Man."

Shields said the strength of the company combined with the political atmosphere in the country makes this production especially good.

"The Best Man" is a play by Gore Vidal, which covers two presidential candidates as they vie for their party's nomination. "The playwright attempts to show the humanity of larger-than-life people approaching the public," Shields said.

He added the play reminds people that everyone has the human elements of both positive and negative drives, even if they are running for a presidential office.

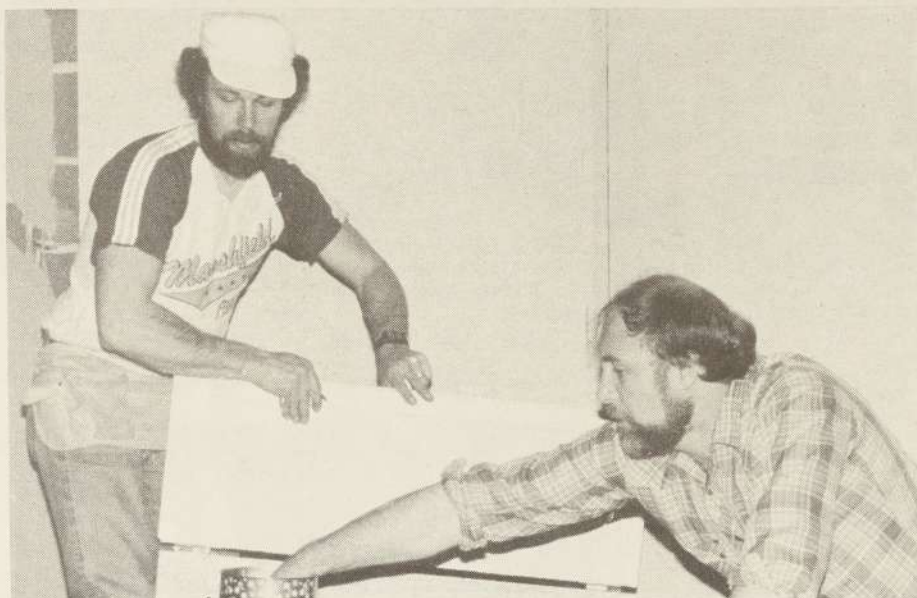
Shields cited the skills of

the cast both on and off stage, along with the technical artistry, for providing the quality production. He said the set design, sound work and costuming create a well-rounded show. "There is a large number of very competent people working in several capacities," he said.

The cost of the spring production exceeds the year's other two term plays, because of the number of costumes that the large cast requires and the nature of the setting.

"We knew it would be expensive because the setting is a very fancy hotel in downtown Manhattan, and the cast is large," Shields explained. He said the department had anticipated the cost and had been especially frugal with funds throughout the year. "The value of this production warrants the expense," Shields added.

The play's run will in-



clude a dinner theater fundraising program presented in coordination with the College administration.

The play opens May 17

and continues on the 18, 19, June 1 and 2 at 8 p.m. A Sunday matinee is scheduled for 2:30 p.m., June 3. Admission is \$3 general and \$2 for

students. Reservations are recommended.

For reservations and further information contact the theater department at ext. 356.

BY GORE VIDAL

May 17, 18, 19 and
June 1, 2, at 8:00 pm
June 3, at 2:30 pm

General Admission: \$3.00
Students: \$2.00
Gold Card: free with reservations
Reservations recommended
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GOOD VS EVIL—Protagonist Bill Russell (Rolland Grubbe) and Antagonist Joe Cantwell (Bob Ems).



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