

**LUGHNASA**

Continued from Page 3

The story is narrated by Michael, the illegitimate son of one of the sisters. Chris Voss, a senior theater arts major and the actor who plays Michael, described the stumbling blocks performers face on the stage. "For this play, performing my lines is the hardest part," Voss said. "I have so many, and I don't have much interaction with the other characters, and what interaction I do have is so stilted." Regardless of the work involved, the job has its rewards. "This has been a real fun cast to work with," Voss said. "It's a small cast so it is very intimate. If you work with a larger cast, say, 25 or more people then you get to know some people, but you don't get to see others as much." Indeed, the long hours spent on the stage rehearsing encourages cast members to learn from each other and about each other. Mandy Mitchell, a freshman general studies major, said the life of an actress has some confusing moments. "I think there's a real chemistry that develops between us because we spend so much time together on stage practicing," Mitchell said. "Sometimes

you'll see another cast member on campus and call out their stage name." Ruth Ann Jaso, a senior genetics major, said the actors sometimes found themselves behaving like a family after hours of pretending to be a family. "Some of us get on each other's nerves at times but it's a good thing," Jaso said. "We know each other well enough because of the time we spend practicing that any time they do get on your nerves it's not a big thing." Still, Jaso said the script remains true to life. "Anybody who has a sister can relate to this play," Jaso said. Nancy Castellanos, a senior journalism major, said the long hours spent in rehearsal are not a big sacrifice when compared to the rewards of acting in a play as good as "Dancing at Lughnasa." "Honestly, when you do something like this, you have so much fun you just don't notice the time," Castellanos said. "You come out of practice so awake and energized it picks you up." "Dancing at Lughnasa" will be presented at 8 p.m. in Rudder Forum from April 16 to 18 and April 22 to 24. Tickets are available at the MSC Box Office. Ticket prices are \$6 for students and \$7 for the general public.

**ALLERGIES**

Continued from Page 3

The survey also indicated that everyday activities such as driving, eating and exercising can be challenging for allergy sufferers. Seventy-five percent of the respondents said they go through between 100 and 600 tissues during an allergy season. Even though allergy sufferers may think their battle with allergies may never end, allergy symptoms sometimes become dormant and symptoms disappear. But unfortunately, experts believe that allergy sufferers do not outgrow their disease. Symptoms tend to recur after being dormant, and allergies may even worsen over time.

Besides seven humans, the shuttle will carry more than 2,000 animals, some of which will be dissected in orbit. The furry, scaly and crawly crowd includes pregnant mice, rats, snails, fish and crickets. They were loaded into Columbia on Wednesday. Despite the focus on aging, the 76-year-old John Glenn was never considered for this mission, said Dr. Arnaud Nicogossian, NASA's top medical man. "Glenn is scheduled to fly a nine-day shuttle mission this fall. "Columbia's crew has been training intensively for the past few years, and so there wasn't time to add Glenn to the mission," Nicogossian said. "Besides, he said, it's important to know how and why younger bodies mimic aging in weightlessness before sending Glenn into space." In weightlessness, bones and muscles shrivel, immunity decreases and

sleep deteriorates. Those are the sort of things that happen to older people on Earth, thus the interest in the mission by the National Institute on Aging. Pawelczyk and the crew's three other medical men will undergo all sorts of neurological tests during the 16- to 17-day flight. They will have needles stuck in their legs and electrodes attached elsewhere. Their hands will be stuck in ice-cold mittens. They will be spun at 45 rpm. They will be wired for sleep. And if they are lucky, they will repeat the whole thing in four months. NASA is considering reflying NeuroLab aboard Columbia in August. The start of construction on the international space station is probably going to be delayed this summer, so NASA is thinking of adding another shuttle flight to keep its organization sharp.

**Astronauts set to launch on Columbia**

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — The thirty- and fortysomethings who will take off aboard space shuttle Columbia on Thursday for two weeks of medical tests will be young in years but old at heart — at least in orbit. "In two weeks of spaceflight, we can induce changes in blood pressure regulation that might approximate 30 or 40 years of aging and then we can return back to a normal state. It's just a phenomenal research model," said Jim Pawelczyk, a Pennsylvania State University physiologist assigned to the flight. Columbia's NeuroLab mission promises to be the most in-depth study ever of the brain and nervous system in space. It is intended to shed light on aging and other health problems in orbit and on Earth, and perhaps make it easier for astronauts one day to camp on the moon or travel to Mars.

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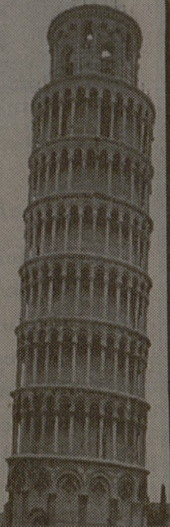
**Spring '99 Study Abroad in Italy**

**INFORMATIONAL MEETINGS in 154 Bizzell Hall West**

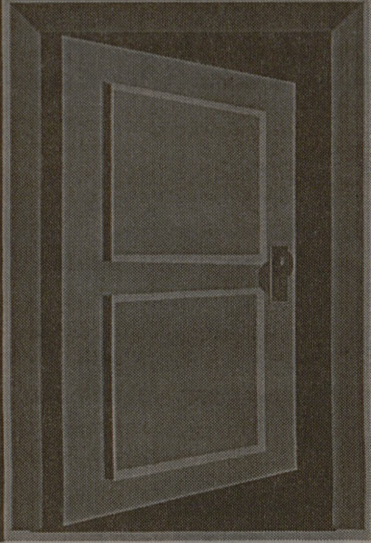
- Monday, April 13 11:00-11:30 AM
- Wednesday, April 15 9:30-10:00 AM
- Friday, April 17 2:00-2:30 PM

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Study Abroad Program Office, 161 Bizzell Hall West, 845-0544



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