‘Julius’ Nearly Ready

By ROGER GLADE

In preparation for the Ides of March, Dr. J. J. Davies has been discussing the anatomy of roundworms in the forum of Ancient Rome.

While even this seems hardly out of character for the avid professor of Biology 100, most of the credit for the date and the locale must go to the Rice Players, who, piece by piece, have almost literally been constructing that forum in front of the eyes of the biology freshmen.

But, on the whole, this is merely the visual manifestation of the annual Spring frenzy which this time indicates that the fifteen annual Shakespeare production of the Rice Players will be ‘Julius Caesar.’

Following a generally excellent season of student drama, the Players will present this political tragedy April 28 through May 3 in Hamman Hall, and are in the midst of selling tickets in the Rice Memorial Center as well as finishing work on the triple-arched multi-level set on the Hamman stage.

Asked to comment about the play, Mr. Neil Havens, director in residence of the Players replied that ‘Caesar’ was eminently political. “You might even say that Brutus is a sort of misguided Woodrow Wilson figure,” he said. “Brutus represents the embodiment of the bumbling liberal idealist. If he weren’t so, the tragedy just couldn’t happen.”

Taking major roles in this production are Joe Carl Parsons as Brutus, Joe English in the title role, Barry Mawer as Mark Anthony, Thom Scrutchin as Cassius, Naomi Morehead as Calpurnia, and Mary Stromer as Portia.

Furthermore, reviving a practice of making their own costumes for the first time this year, the Players have Michele Stojan (who designed the costumes for ‘Wyt and Science’), chained to a sewing machine for the duration.

Similarly, set designer Barbara Clark has been forced to make good her first remark upon walking onto the bare stage. With a tape measure in one hand and plan in the other, she said with a sigh, “Ah, Rome.” And after three weeks, it is beginning to look it.

Tickets are already being sold quickly and all seats are reserved. For those who wish to phone, between 9:30 am and 3 pm reservations can be made at ext. 688.