Shakespeare Festival Announced For April

By SANDY COYNER

An impressive festival celebrating the Shakespeare Quadracentennial is being planned by the Humanities Division to take place on the Rice campus during the month of April. The program is not yet settled, but several departments have released their tentative plans.

The participating organizations at present include: the English Department, The Rice Players, the Chapel, the Music Department, the Library, and possibly the History Department.

PROFESSOR JOHN W. Velz is the chairman of the English Department's Committee for the festival. His present plans (subject to change) include sponsoring four speakers, two experts on Shakespeare and two Marlowe scholars.

"The department will cooperate with other departments to produce a really good, well-run festival," as Dr. Velz commented, one that will "be of stature and interest to the whole university community."

THE RICE PLAYERS' annual Shakespeare production will be held April 23-26. David Dannenberg, who directed the successful "J.B." will direct the play, which has not as yet been selected. Readings will be held during the period November 1-15, after which the play will be selected and announced. Players' President Mike Holmes declared that his organization will produce a "magnificent play" because "we have the best director."

Two chapel programs will emphasize Shakespeare. On April 16, a lecturer from New York City will speak on the theological aspects of Shakespeare's work. The speaker has not yet been confirmed, but will be one of two prospects, both of whom are noted experts in the field. The preceding week, on April 19, the chapel program will consist of a typical sixteenth century service, with sixteenth century hymns and madrigals.

THE MUSIC department is looking into possibilities of sponsoring a group of madrigal singers from St. Louis who perform with authentic renaissance instruments. Roland Pomerat, university organist, will give concerts of Renaissance organ music and a carillon concert. The Rice Chorale may give a concert of madrigals.

The Library will probably sponsor an active event in addition to exhibits and displays during the festival.

Dr. Konstantin Kolenda of the philosophy department is the "Coordinator of the Calendar" for the festival, and is helping organize the efforts of the contributing departments. Any groups wishing to sponsor an event are encouraged to see Dr. Kolenda to secure a date. A tentative calendar will be arranged in the near future.