Plants exposed to radiation and people exposed to bad experiences can become the same thing: mutants. But on the other hand, something unique and beautiful can often survive and blossom in barren soil. Those are the two underlying themes of "The Effect of Gamma Rays on Man in the Moon Marigolds," a play presented by the department of communication and theatre March 23-25.

The Paul Zindel drama centers on the relationship between a disturbed mother and her two daughters. It focuses on Tillie, a young, meek girl, who rises above her troubled home life through a science project and the attention of a caring teacher. "Tillie's mother has manifested her unhappiness in the relationship with her daughters," said director Dr. Janet Rubin, associate professor of communication and theatre. "She's distrustful, has gone through a bad marriage, and is not living the life she envisioned. She's bitter. The daughter Ruth is very much like the mother, not certifiably crazy, but what I consider an on-the-fringe character.

"Tillie has been exposed to this disturbed home, yet manages to come out of it all right, because of the special attention of a science teacher at school. The teacher helps with a project for the science fair, which earns first prize in a city contest."

The project supplies some of the strongest analogies in the Pulitzer-prize winning play. Sets of marigold seeds have been exposed to varied amounts of cobalt 60 radiation -- gamma rays. Seeds receiving little radiation grew into plants of normal appearance, those getting moderate exposure produced mutations and seeds closest to the gamma source died or became dwarf plants.

"Those three groups symbolize Tillie, Ruth and Beatrice," Rubin said. "Tillie is like the group that received little radiation. She blossoms as a person because of her abilities and the help she received from outside the family. Ruth is a mutant. We play her character as someone who'll be Beatrice in 10 years. The seeds closest to the gamma rays mirror Beatrice — dead for the most part. "In many ways Beatrice is the gamma source, and the children she has yielded are the dwarf plants."

While the family's plight in Marigolds is depressing, the play's message is not, Rubin maintains. "No matter what kind of situation you're in, there's always hope if you can believe in yourself. That's Tillie's message. She's got this inner strength, and even though she's surrounded by two crazies, she's going to be okay. There's something within that enables her to rise above her environment. It's a message all of us can use."

The drama is Rubin's first SVSC production. In addition to college drama and communication courses, she was been active instructing area teachers on the use of drama as a creative teaching tool. The set was designed by Lee-Perry Belleau of Saginaw.

Kim Schulteiss of Charlotte portrays Tillie. The senior communication and theatre major has starred in many SVSC productions and performed in summer stock productions.

In another lead role is Shellie Anaman Gaertner as Beatrice. A senior communication and theatre major from Saginaw, she also has been active in Pit and Balcony productions. Kristi Edwards of Bridgeport will make her SVSC debut as Ruth. She is a freshman majoring in theatre arts.
In the role of Janice, an airheaded contestant in the science competition, is freshman Misty Van Steenhousen, a special education major from Unionville.

Rounding out the cast is senior Michelle Langley of Freeland. She portrays Nanny, an invalid boarder in Beatrice's home. Langley is a senior majoring in communication and theatre.

The curtain goes up on Friday, March 23, and Saturday, March 24, at 8:00 p.m. A Sunday matinee on March 25 begins at 2:00 p.m. Faculty may request two complimentary tickets and admission for staff personnel is $1. Tickets are $3 for general admission and $1 for students and senior citizens. For reservations and ticket information, call ext. 4110.

CONSTRUCTION ALTERS PARKING, WALKS

Construction on I.F. 2 is beginning to accelerate and there will be several changes to parking lots and sidewalks in upcoming weeks, says Bob Hanes, director of engineering services. Lot D has been partially closed since March 5, and the remainder of the lot will be closed at the end of this semester. The walk from Pioneer Hall to lot D will be fenced off within a week, along with the northeast entrance to the building, Hanes says. The current walk from lot D to Wickes Hall will remain open until after graduation.

Hanes admits these changes will cause an inconvenience for students, but adds that relief has been planned. A temporary sidewalk from lot E to Wickes Hall should be completed by the end of the semester, along with a walk from the gym to the south side of Pioneer Hall. Hanes recommends that students going to Pioneer Hall park in lots A and B. Over the summer a permanent lot will be constructed just north of lot D to help alleviate parking problems.

COMMENCEMENT NOTES

The deadline for ordering commencement tickets is March 30. Due to a seating shortage, faculty and staff are initially limited to two tickets each, but additional tickets may be available after April 2. When placing an order, please list the total number of tickets requested. Orders should be forwarded to the Campus Activities office. For more information, call the Campus Activities office at ext. 4260, or Development and College Relations at ext. 4050.

ABLERS WORK TO REMOVE BARRIERS

"We're committed to higher education, and an environment is needed that gives everyone a chance, regardless of handicaps." Such is the attitude of the student group that held the recent "Awareness Week."

The Ablers are a campus club of handicapped and non-handicapped students volunteering their time to promote academic success for students with impairments. "Handicappers are now saying 'we're able. We might have different abilities, but we can do just about anything,'" said counselor Ted Nitz, club advisor. "We took our name from that idea."

The organization grew out of a committee that assisted in maintaining a barrier free campus, keeping SVSC in compliance with federal and state handicapper laws. They've initiated proposals resulting in special ramps being added or modified on campus, a snow path sidewalk through campus being cleared first on winter mornings, and wheelchairs and motorized carts being available for temporary use.

"We've grown to fill needs," Nitz said. "There were other support systems needed for special students, and the group began to assist in meeting those needs. Our members read for the visually impaired, locate interpreters for the deaf, tutor, provide transportation, and compile educational materials." The students fill a special niche, Nitz contends, explaining that the college couldn't afford to pay for all the services the Ablers provide.

Educating the campus community is another Abler goal. They work to make students, faculty and staff sensitive to the needs of handicappers. Eliminating the stigma attached to handicappers is a priority issue. "Promoting awareness is important," Kaye said, "because it's the first key element to social change."

The type of people volunteering their time to the club makes the Ablers successful, Nitz feels. "Many of them adopt a spirit of determination, because they feel they're doing something significant. They're successful and motivated."
BRIEFLY SPEAKING - EVENTS & INFORMATION

--The Michigan Community Blood Center and the American Red Cross will sponsor a blood drive today and Wednesday, in the Wickes Hall concourse. Blood can be donated from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. today, and 1:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday. Call Gloria Hansen of health services at ext. 4272 for more information.

--Students interested in employment opportunities are encouraged to attend the Career Exploration Day on Wednesday, March 21, from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. in lower Doan. Representatives from 35 area firms will be on hand to answer questions on career planning and employment. The program also will feature mock interviews for students honing job-hunting skills. For more information, contact Gary Apsy, director of placement and continuing education, at ext. 4070.

--Guitarist Parker Macdonell will perform at the next salad bar series on Wednesday, March 21, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in Doan Mall. His songs explore the personal side of life and he has performed with Chuck Berry and Bo Diddley. A 50-cent salad bar will be open during the performance. Call Mary Anne Lustgraaf for more information at ext. 4260.

--The Saginaw Valley Entrepreneurs Club will host a dinner speaker on Wednesday, March 21, at 6:00 p.m. in lower Doan. Matt Hennessee, Saginaw assistant city manager, will discuss cooperation between city governments and business. For more information, contact the BIDI office at ext. 4048.

--In honor of his recent promotion to the rank of full professor, Dr. Ricardo Pastor, chairman of the department of modern foreign languages, will give a professorship lecture on Monday, March 26, at 3:30 in Wickes Faculty Lounge. Pastor's topic will be "Capitalistic Exploitation of the Poor." The campus community is invited and refreshments will be served.

--The Valley Woodwind Quintet will give two concerts next week. They will perform in the Bridgeport High School auditorium on Sunday, March 25, at 3:00 p.m., and at First Presbyterian Church in Bay City on Wednesday, March 28, at 12:15 p.m. Both performances will feature works by Barrows, Farkas, and Damase. Several members of the Midland Symphony Orchestra will join the quintet at the Bridgeport concert for a performance of Dvorak's "Serenade for Nine Winds, Cello and Bass." The concerts are free of charge. For more information, call Dr. Drew Hinderer at ext. 4497.

--College faculty will attend a dinner in recognition of SVSC's 20th Anniversary on Friday, March 30. Dr. Leslie Whittaker, professor of English, will serve as master of ceremonies, and Donna J. Roberts, assistant general counsel to The Dow Chemical Co. will be the evening's main speaker. Roberts is serving on the National Task Force on Education for Economic Growth in 1984, and will discuss the organization's recommendations. Whittaker will give a presentation titled "An Outsider's Inside View of the College (A Chronicle of the Events and Times of SVSC, Collected by Dr. Leslie Whittaker with the Aid of a Telescope, a Microscope, and a Stethoscope). Faculty who have not responded to invitations are requested to contact Elaine Schnepf at ext. 4235.

--Students who performed well academically or have given outstanding service to SVSC will be presented certificates at Student Recognition and Appreciation Day on Thursday, April 12. Mary Anne Lustgraaf, coordinator of campus activities, says that campus community members wishing to honor students for service to the college are welcome to participate. Free certificates for general appreciation or outstanding student employee will be available beginning March 26th. Those wishing to participate in the program should contact Lustgraaf at ext. 4260 by April 2.

--Two vendors will be on campus in March to make library approval plan presentations. The approval plan is a program for the acquisition of newly published titles based on a collection development profile for the library. A representative from Baker and Taylor will be on campus Friday, March 23, at 9:30 a.m. in room 124 of the library. A member of Blackwell North American will meet with the college community on Thursday, March 29, at 9:30 a.m. in library 124. Faculty are encouraged to attend.

--Bookstore manager Betty Wineland notes that someone turned in an unsigned commencement participation form, stating that no regalia was needed. Wineland asks that the person who sent the form identify him or herself.
ACROSS CAMPUS

--Dr. Anna Dadlez, associate professor of modern foreign languages, will present a paper at the Michigan Women's Studies Association Conference on May 5 at the University of Michigan-Flint. Her topic is "The Female Image in Post World War II Polish Literature."

--Dr. Shiv Arora, professor of marketing, was a dinner speaker at the Birch Run Chamber of Commerce meeting on March 8. His topic was "Marketing and a Small Businessman."

--Brian Fisher has joined the controller's staff as coordinator of student financial services. He is a graduate of Central Michigan University and worked for First National Bank & Trust of Big Rapids prior to his position at SVSC.

--Jim Muladore, controller, was elected to the board of directors of the Valley State Employees Credit Union at their annual meeting March 10. His term runs three years.

--Dr. Dwight B. Means, associate professor of finance, successfully defended his doctoral thesis at the University of Pittsburgh in March. He also presented a paper at the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants in late April.

THE PERSONNEL DEPARTMENT

UNIVERSITY CENTER, MICHIGAN 48865

The Personnel Office is sponsoring a sexual harassment seminar for faculty and administrative/professional employees on Friday, March 23. There will be two sessions in lower Doan, 10:00 to 11:30 a.m., and 1:00 to 2:30 p.m. Pat Curran of the Michigan Department of Labor will conduct the program and the personnel office encourages participation.

ASSISTANT/ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF ACCOUNTING

Full-time, permanent (new position). Salary negotiable. For more information, call the personnel office at ext. 4112.

HIGH FIVE FOR LIBRARY USE ONLY

Dreams of a national championship ended two games short for the women's basketball team last week in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. After handily defeating Biola University 76-56 in first-round action, the Lady Cardinals dropped a 70-53 decision to Berry College of Georgia. Coach Marsha Reall and her squad finished the season with an outstanding 30-1 record, earning GLIAC, District 23, and Tri-District 15 titles.

Thinclds from the men's and women's track teams dominated the Great Lakes Conference meet Saturday at Grand Valley State College. The men won their sixth league title, scoring 248 points. Ed Brown set conference records in the 400 meter, 50 meter high hurdles, and the 300 meter, also a school record. Senior Ed LaBair set a conference mark in the 1,500 meter run, and a GLIAC and SVSC record in the 1,000 meter. Other individual conference record setters included Rick Brown in the 600 meter, Charles White in the 800 meter, and Troy Ouellette in the 3,000 meter.

The Lady Cardinals also turned in an outstanding performance, winning the women's title with 179 points. Second place Hillsdale had 122 points. School records were set by Kari Lopinski in the high jump, and Felipa Smith in the 300 meter. Smith also won the 50 meter dash. The women swept the distance races, taking the 1,000, 3,000 and 5,000 meter events.

The baseball team ended their preseason spring trip through the South with a 4-8 record. One of the offensive standouts was Garth Brittenham, who collected three homers in one week.

SVSC EVENTWATCH

Mar. 20-21 ... Blood Drive
Mar. 21 ... Career Day
Mar. 21 ... Salad Bar Series
Mar. 21 ... Valley Entrepreneurs Meeting
Mar. 23 ... Library Plan Presentation
Mar. 23 ... Sexual Harassment Seminar
Mar. 23-25 ... "Marigolds" Play Production
Mar. 25 ... Valley Quintet Concert
Mar. 26 ... Professorship Lecture
Mar. 26-28 ... Woody Allen Film Series

See monthly calendar or call Information Services for times and details.