

Butterworth restrains Renfield as Dr. Seward reprimands her for unruly behavior. He threatens to take away her sugar which she uses as a trap for the flies she eats.

The Seward's new friendly neighbor, Dracula, begins to reminisce of days in Transylvania during an unexpected visit. Dracula's visits were always preceded by howling wolves.



The Fall Play

A Night of Chills and Thrills

On October 31, and November 1 & 2, the Little Theatre was transformed into a living nightmare as dogs howled, organs played, and lights dimmed. S.T.A.G. (Sycamore Theatre Arts Groupe) was putting on their fall production, *Dracula*.

This 1920's melodrama is based on Bram Stoker's best selling classic of the same name. In England, a beautiful young lady named Lucy Seward becomes mysteriously ill. Her fiancé, Jonathan Harker, and father, Dr. Seward are clueless as to what illness is causing her paleness, loss of blood, and weakness. They call on Professor Van Helsing to come cure Lucy, but they may be too late if they can't determine who or what the culprit is. Maybe it is the insane lunatic Renfield, or Mr. Butterworth the butler, or perhaps the maid, Miss Wells. Maybe they should consider their strange neighbor Count Dracula who always visits at odd hours. All they know is that they must cure Lucy as death lurks.

With such strong and diverse characters, S.T.A.G. had a chance to show their true heights of dramatic talent. Senior Scott Parrish said, "I had never had such an opportunity as in *Dracula* to portray a sinister and evil person. It was exciting to take on the persona of a satanically powerful creature [Dracula], espe-

cially on Halloween weekend."

"Dracula was the best experience I've ever had on stage," senior Jodi Schneider said. "I loved playing the insane person. It was a really challenging role for me and I feel playing the role of Renfield helped me expand my range as an actress."

Hundreds of students and adults sat thrilled in their seats as they watched the case unravel. Unlike the previous fall plays which average only a mere attendance of 100 people a night, *Dracula* set attendance records with about 325 audience members on the final evening. "With the students' support in the audience, S.T.A.G. could always have high caliber productions," Parrish said. "The more they support us, as in *Dracula*, the better we perform."

With a talented cast and exceptional backstage work *Dracula* was a tremendous success for S.T.A.G. Parrish unselfishly added, "Besides the hard work of the actors and crews, a lot of credit for *Dracula's* success should be given to our director, Ms. Knotts. Without her effort in choosing and designing the play, it would not have come off as well."

Dracula was a record breaking achievement for Sycamore Theatre Arts Groupe and will be a haunting memory forever.

by Carly Bella



Dr. Seward and Professor Van Helsing discuss what could be causing Lucy's pale and weak symptoms and marks on her neck. At first they conclude that the marks are caused by safety pins, but when the symptoms persist they question their conclusions.

of. Van Helsing tells Miss Wells to never leave Lucy's side during the night hours. He suspects that Dracula is up to some evil, but doesn't realize that he will hypnotize her.

