

Werewolf of Washington

# Washroom wolfman cashes in on Watergate

If The Werewolf of Washington is notable for nothing else, it certainly has more toilets per reel than any other current film.

Pendants are flushed down them, people escape through them, and a werewolf is shot in one. At one point, the camera even films from inside a gleaming toilet bowl.

This canny proliferation fits the style of the film quite nicely. Obviously made in a hurry to cash in on the Watergate scandal, Werewolf has all the production values of a standard pornographic flick, with none of the seamy advantages.

Basically, the story concerns US presidential press secretary Jack Whittier, who is bitten in the opening sequence by a Hungarian werewolf, in a self-conscious imitation of a similar sequence in Lon Chaney, Jr.'s original Wolfman.

But the werewolf Whittier turns into is more in the tradition of Henry Hull's Werewolf of London, or Oliver

Reed's Curse of the Werewolf: white fur, with what looks like a mid-60s mod haircut.

Whittier stalks the powerful offices and parties of Washington, press secretary by day and beast by night. He rips open the gullets of anti-administration types modelled on Martha Mitchell and Maxine Cheshire,

until he is finally downed by the president's daughter.

The meagre humour of the film comes not from the lines, which are rather dismal, but from the situations paralleling Richard Nixon's battles with the press, the nation and the world.

The president is played in zombie-

like fashion by a Johnny Carson look-alike named Biff Maguire, with a few Nixon-like gestures. His daughter Marion is played by a Cybill Shepherd look-alike named Jane House, and the late Michael Dunn, in a brief cameo role, plays the diminutive Dr. Kiss, a presidential advisor.

Whittier himself is played by Dean

Stockwell (Sons and Lovers), who has a total of two facial expressions in his acting repertoire. If he had given even a remotely interesting performance, Werewolf might have amounted to more than a shoddily-made topical one-liner of a film.

The film opens tomorrow downtown.

# Sticks and Bones etches blind Viet vet's horrifying return home

By BOB McBRYDE

David Rabe's Sticks And Bones is a hodge-podge of theatrical forms which succeeds through the brute force of its narrative line and the richness of the playwright's imagination.

The topicality of the play (a son returning from Vietnam) need not worry those who are wary of drama which becomes a vehicle for propaganda. Sticks and Bones is an advertisement only for its promising

young playwright.

Rabe has learned his art from worthy mentors. The play combines elements of Edward Albee's The American Dream with Arthur Miller's Death of a Salesman, to become at once absurd and surrealistic.

From Eugene O'Neill he has developed a sense of the family drama which seems to take place in the face of a yawning abyss.

There is much that is original, much that is stunningly unique, in Sticks and Bones, including a horrifying ritual of death at the play's conclusion.

The Hart House theatrical group continues to introduce performers of exceptional talent. James Dugan, who plays Ozzie, the father, has a

remarkable knack for those forms of speech and gesture which allow a young man to portray convincingly a person of middle age.

Gary Schallenberg, as the prodigal son David, effectively simulates blindness, but tends to garble some of his longer speeches — which, when spoken effectively, have the power of poetry.

Ozzie, Harriet, Ricky and David: these are the play's characters. Rabe has taken an American television fantasy and transformed it into a vision of grotesque horror.

Sticks and Bones is playing until Nov. 24 at the Hart House theatre, University of Toronto. Student rates are \$2.50.

# Humanoids waylaid

Despite complaints by rabid fans, the Hsu/Black comic epic, The Humanoids, has been cut this week due to space. But all things going well, Fran Smith and the force commander will have a battle royale next week which will leave the weak gasping and the strong clutching for their handkerchiefs. A registered nurse will be in attendance.

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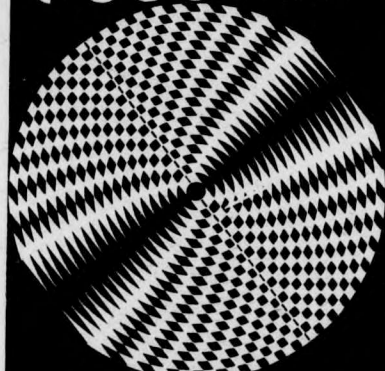
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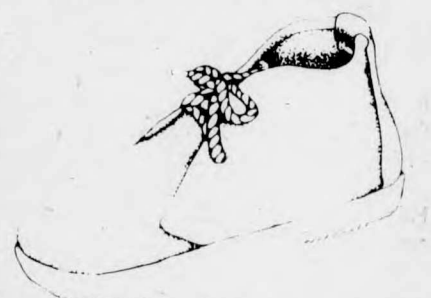
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