Buried Child' stuns audiences

By Leslie Swine

Darilyn Carroll (Shelly) holds the leg of Dan Giblin (Bradley) as she tries to get everyone's attention.

left to right are Ray Means, Director of Reinert Alumni Library (Fr. Dewis), Rebecca M. Kellen (Halie), Dan Giblin (Bradley), Darilyn Carroll (Shelly) and Alan Klem (Dodge), assistant professor of fine arts.

Alan Klem, associate professor of journalism, carries the dramatic lead of Dodge while acting as co-director of the play. Klem breathes life into Dodge with his erratic mood swings. One minute he is angry and vicious, the next he is laughing heartily, and seconds later he is screaming insanely for a bottle of alcohol. Dodge's character is very well developed— we can see the pain his family has caused him, his yearning to communicate, and the fury that allowed him to commit a brutal crime. Klem spends most of the play sitting or lying on a couch or the floor, yet despite his lack of mobility his performance is still exciting. His expressions and outburst bring the character alive.

Shelley is also very well cast. Darilyn Carroll, an arts junior in her first Creighton production, brings the perfect blend of sarcasm and vulnerability to the character of Shelley.

The content of the play is excellent.

The plot, the script, and the actors are intense, but the effects occasionally detract from the power and impact of the dialogue. The rain off the porch, meant to add realism and create a melancholy feeling, is actually distracting. Whenever there was a pause in the dialogue I found my eyes and mind wandering towards the rain.

I also did not feel that the saxophone music added much to the play. Occasionally it overpowered the actors and it did not seem to fit in with the theme of the play.

The lighting, however, was very effective. Everytime the secret is alluded to the stage lights dim and a blue light comes up. This made the entire idea of the buried secret seem more mysterious.

Buried Child is a shocking play and Creighton has done a magnificent job of presenting it. It is one play audiences will not soon forget.