'Antigone' involves generation conflict

The eternal struggle between the idealism of youth and the pragmatism of old age will be enacted in Greek drama, as Creighton Theatre works on its upcoming production of "Antigone."

Preparation for "Antigone" is going well, according to Dr. Suzanne Dieckman, "Antigone's" director and coordinator of theater in the fine arts department.

Dieckman said "Antigone" involves feminist issues, as well as the generational conflict, and conflicts of political and personal power, allegiance of state versus allegiance to self.

'Generational conflict'

"I hope the play reminds people of the ongoing conflict between the generations," Dieckman said. "The same questions that concerned Sophocles 2,000 years ago are taken up by Anouith and are still applicable today."

Creighton is performing the modern version of "Antigone," written by Jean Anouith and adapted by Lewis Galantierie. Anouith wrote "Antigone" during World War II when France was under German occupation.

Also, she said the play has a relatively simple set design, which should ensure that the technical end of the production goes smoothly. A less demanding set design for Creighton Theatre also will allow the tech crew more time for work on the Company of Dancers production, Dieckman said, which begins today and will run through Sunday.

12 actors, 2 dancers

"Antigone's" cast consists of 12 actors and two dancers. Two former students in Creighton Theatre will portray leading roles: Mary Kelly Arrieta is Antigone, and Kelly Hitch is Ismene.

Other characters will be played by Vito LaBella, Heather Winterer, Frank Kosmicki, Dottie Krist, William Ray, Dan Deschler, Thomas Maloney, Kris Bergquist, Ann Leary and Pam Lashley. The dancers are Jim Nelson and Tom Siddoway. Tammy Medinger is the assistant director.

"We are where we should be at this point in production," Dieckman said. "Set platforms are up, although there is still a lot of work to be done."

"The costumes should be very interesting," she said. "We are striving for a universal look that combines Greek, military and modern elements of the play."

Dieckman has added a unique element to the play; Anouith calls for one dance in the play, Dieckman has added a second. The extra dance — which appears at the beginning of the play — was choreographed by Patty Zukaitis, dance instructor, and depicts the battle between Antigone's two brothers.

Performances of "Antigone" will be December 2-4 and 9-11 in the Eppley Little Theatre. Following the Thursday night performance, discussion sessions will be held with audience members, Dieckman said.

Singer says U.S. has 2-3,000 cults

By Sue O'Hanlon

"There are between 2,000 and 3,000 cults in the United States today, with over three million members, and at least 20 million people who have once been involved in these cults," said Dr. Margaret Thaler Singer, a Berkeley, Calif. psychologist. Singer spoke about cults and brainwashing in a lecture in Upper Brandeis Wednesday night called the "Systematic Manipulation of Social Influence."

"Anyone in a vulnerable state can become brainwashed," said Singer. "Most people who join are in a normal state and are between 18 and 25 years old, middle-class, college-educated and caucasian," she said.

Singer said that throughout history there are a number of self-appointed Messiahs who may only attract a small number of followers. However, when social and political structures have broken