

# to coin a phrase . . .

by **alicia helton**

*"The Bacchae" by Euripides, translated by William A. Arrowsmith. A Greek tragedy presented by the Department of Drama at Hogg Auditorium.*

By **ALICIA HELTON**  
Amusements Editor

"The Bacchae," a moving story of power void of justice, is the latest of the drama department's triumphs.

Euripides, via Dr. William Arrowsmith's contemporary dialogue, pictures power on its many levels. Pentheus, played by Dallas Rick Hamilton, refuses allegiance to the young son of Zeus, Dionysus, Laird Williamson.

Angered by the rebuttal of the town of Thebes, Dionysus seeks revenge in the cruelest of ways, sending Pentheus to his death at the hands of the Bacchae, the town's revelers, Dionysus' worshipers, and the leader of the murderous band is the young ruler's mother Agave, Barbara J. Lacey.

Acted entirely on the standard Greek stage and amid eerie and most effective lighting, the drama moves most rapidly accompanied and often explained by a chorus of the Asian Bacchae who have followed Dionysus to Thebes.

**DESIGNED BY PAUL REINHARDT**  
and a student crew headed by Linda Fish-

er, the costumes add much to the characterization. The chorus is dressed, as are all the followers of the god Dionysus, in animal skins draped over colorful robes and gold coins form a jingling crown beneath each garland of ivy. Pentheus and the other Greeks are dressed in brief but realistic-looking finery.

The music, by Lothar Klein, is hard to describe, so well did it follow the moods and movement of the story.

James Moll, the director, has staged the action so that at no time do you realize the bareness of the setting. David Nancarrow and his student assistant Benet Averyt also deserve loud applause for the magnificent lighting.

**EDWARD CANNAN**, as Cadmus, and Barbara J. Lacey distinguished themselves earlier this fall in their performances in "Take Me Along." Wednesday night they proved their versatility.

The two-hour production runs without break through the hopeless suspense evoked by Greek drama, the desire to see the victims spared coupled with the knowledge of their inevitable destruction.

The entire production is spectacular, extravagant as only Greek tragedy can be, dignified and highly dramatic.