

Al Capp Calls Today's Youth Completely Conforming Rebels

by Jim Markham

"We haven't had any group of rebels so completely conforming," was Al Capp's commentary on today's youth. Mr. Capp commented on this and other issues at this year's first session of the annual Monmouth College Lecture Series presented Thursday, October 7.

Today's youth "dresses as a rejected sewer laborer" but wants money from home, according to Mr. Capp who feels that it is good for teenagers to think about foreign policy but we shouldn't take advice from them about a world in which they have not lived long enough.

The humorist commented sarcastically on withdrawal of U. S. troops from Viet Nam. "Should we get out of Viet Nam--Certainly! Are we going to follow men like President Johnson and the Secretary of Defense rather than sophomores at Harvard?"

"I say get out of Viet Nam now because the Red Chinese want it. We can settle it with them in California," he added mockingly.

Mr. Capp commented on TV personality Jack Paar, whom he knows. "Paar was one of the most exciting, unpredictable products of TV, because he had a naked face letting you see what was inside of him." Capp cited Paar's courage in single-handedly fighting the press and coming out even.

Commenting on the mayoralty race in New York, Capp said facetiously, "Mayor Beame will be just as energetic and competent as Mayor Wagner."

Mr. Capp told of the humanitarianism of his mother. She and her four sons grew up in poverty. When Capp and his brothers made good they sent a great sum of money to their mother each week. They assumed she was living well. But after she died they



discovered she had been supporting four children whom she had placed in foster homes. Capp's mother had spent the second half of her life exactly as the first, in poverty.

Capp said there was only one secret pitch underlying his Li'l Abner cartoons. He was born in New Haven, Conn. on Stevens Street which was "aspiring to

become a slum." In his neighborhood he knew no difference in the race, religion or nationality of his neighbors. When Capp moved from Stevens Street to a better street he was told that there were differences which were great enough to cause people to kick others around. My secret pitch, said Capp, "is to get back to Stevens Street."