

Arts and Letters Underway

The Student Union Board Arts and Letters Series is presenting seven lectures this year, beginning on October 7, with Dr. Benjamin Spock, writer, doctor, and Vietnam-War-Critic.

In an interview with The OUTLOOK last week, Mr. Webster Trammell, director of student activities, discussed this year's series. He said that he believed this year's series would be of greater interest to the students than was last year's.

He also discussed ways in which the handling of this year's series has differed from last year.

"Last year's series, and particularly the Maxwell Taylor presentation, ran into a number of problems," said Mr. Trammell. "For one, there was a lack of communication: many people, including some professors, didn't know about the Lecture ahead of time. There was some confusion among students about whether there would be a question-and-answer period after General Taylor spoke. And there was, generally, no provision for allowing persons whose views differed with that of the speaker, to address themselves to the audience," he said.

"This year, every contract with each speaker specifies that there will be some form of question-and-answer period. This might be in the form of direct questions made by persons in the audience, in which case, microphones would be provided

for questioners. This part of the presentation might also take the form of specific questions being prepared in writing before, or during, the lecture. In any case, there will be some way for meaningful interaction between the speakers and the audience, said Mr. Trammell.

To solve the communications problem, Mr. Trammell said that letters were sent twice, one during mid-summer, and again on September 14, to every professors and administrative staff member, advising them in advance of the lectures being scheduled.

Finally, according to Mr. Trammell, there will be opportunities for the presentation of opposing views at the end of each lecture.

"The lectures will be set up on sort of an open-ended basis," he said. "For instance, this is how the Dr. Spock evening might be arranged: Dr. Spock is scheduled to speak at 8:30 p.m. on October 7. Now I don't know for certain how long he will talk, but say he spoke for 45 minutes, until 9:15. We would then have a question-and-answer period for, say, half an hour or so. This would bring it to about 10:00. After that, anyone who wished to, could go to the front of the hall, and use the microphone, and give his own views," said Mr. Trammell.

"There's no particular time

that the program would have to end, although individual speakers may not be able to stay beyond a certain time, according to their own needs," he said. "The building is normally open until 11:00, but we could keep it open longer, if necessary."

The only complaint he has received so far, said Mr. Trammell, was from one professor who felt that the series "seemed to be a liberal program, with no hardcore speakers for the right, such as Taylor." Mr. Trammell said he hoped that a more representative selection might be arranged for next year.

With regard to the movie series, Mr. Trammell said that the Sunday night movies, which are being shown at a 75 cents charge per student, are running with some profit each week so far. He said that if this series continues to be profitable, they may be able to show "four or five current-run films, like Easy Rider, for free during the spring."

"Another possibility we are considering," he said, "is a week-long film festival in the spring. We would try to schedule one film every night of the week, and show such things as Shakespearian drama, Bergman films, underground films. But this, of course, depends on how much profit we can realize from the other films," he said.

By John Adams