College speaker programs try balanced approach; some stress central theme, others stress diversity

By CHAS. SZALKOWSKI
Thresher Reporter

Achieving a balance between education and entertainment, so as to capture the interest of a majority of the college members, seems to be the goal of the chairman of the college speaker program committees.

Two basic organizational plans are used in presenting the programs. Baker College, continuing its well-received Baker Speaker Series, is joined by Jones and Brown this year in relating the majority of their programs to a central theme.

The other colleges are striving for diversification in an attempt to cover a wide number of areas of interest.

Baker's program, under Culture Committee Chairman Charles Shanor, is based on the theme “Communication.” Shanor has tentatively scheduled six or seven speakers per semester. Two of the first programs to appear will be Dr. Val Woodward, Rice professor of biology, and by Dr. J. C. Mchesson, Bell Telephone Laboratories, an inventor of the FASE computer language.

Man's Identity
Jones College's executive vice-president, Barbara Manroe, described her college's speaker program as being based around the theme “In Search of Man.” The speakers will deliver an opening address on their established view of the nature of man and then close their program with an informal discussion of how their particular work reflects their thoughts on man's identity.

Speakers tentatively scheduled include a religious sculptor, a state senator, a social worker, an artist, and a human geneticist. The first program is to be presented within two weeks.

Brown Speakers
“Explosion '66: Ethics of Suppression” is the title of the Brown speaker series, according to Kim Nelson, chairman of college programs.

Among the first speakers will be a chemist speaking on the synthesis and control of the consciousness-expansion drugs, such as LSD; a Houston VISTA worker, a local Negro community; a scholar in Russian literature talking about the Russian works of the 1950's; a contemporary novelist, speaking on creativity; and a geneticist explaining the problems and decisions of the questions involved in extension of human life through medical science.

Symposium
Hanszen's symposium program provides the basis for its speaker schedule. Slated for the first semester symposium is Leslie Fiedler, noted critic and novelist, currently associated with the New York State University at Buffalo.

He will visit the Rice campus in early December to present several addresses, visit various classes and spend as much time as possible around the college in discussions with various interested students, according to Bill Geffin, Hanszen program chairman. The other symposium speaker will probably be Dr. William Arrowsmith, professor of classics at the University of Texas.

College System
George Edwards, Will Rice speaker committee chairman, emphasized that his committee was aiming for the balance between entertainment and education that appealed to the most Will Rice members. Two of the planned year-long series of programs have been confirmed.

Dr. C. William Hall, from the Baylor University School of Medicine, will appear November 8 with a talk, slides, and movies concerning the artificial heart, which he, as a member of the DeBakey group, helped develop.

About midterm, Dr. Charles Garside, Rice history instructor, formerly of Yale University, will compare the college system at Rice with the Yale college system.

Film Series
Six programs have already appeared “From the Wiess Rosstrum,” according to Tom Bertrand, Wiess Speaker chairman. The programs ranged from a speech by James Foreman, former executive director of SNCC, to a demonstration by the Rice Karate Club.

To help attain his goal of diversifying the Wiess program, Bertrand has also planned a photographic contest and exhibit, “Youth: A Photographic Study,” as well as the annual majors series and visiting scholar program.

Wiess also plans a film series under film chairman John Alexander. Two sets of programs are scheduled: the popular series, presenting a movie every other Friday, and Iggman Bergman's last trilogy.

Kennedy Years
Miss Manroe announced that See COLLEGE on page 11
College speakers programs varied

(Continued from Page 9) Jones, too, will present several films, including the Xerox specials, "The Making of a President: 1960" and "The Making of a President: 1964" as back-ups for their spring symposium on the Kennedy years.

The main purpose of the symposium will be to explore the intellectual aspect of Kennedy's years in office, the "hero-worship" which has developed around the late President, and the events which have resulted from the actions and policies of Kennedy.

Baker, too, has plans for a movie program, described by Shanor as "an archetypal film series." Besides the films and the speaker series, Baker makes a pointed effort to be alert to possible short-notice topical speakers, contacting them when they happen to be in Houston and inviting them to the college.

Speakers Shared

Hanszen also attempts a similar program, as well as presenting a film series. A small admission fee is charged to the films to help defray costs, one of the biggest problems in securing adequate speakers, according to Geffen. The usually-neglected Houston areas are explored fully for possible programs to cut down costs, and often speakers are shared with the other colleges, the Rice Forum Committee, or local clubs.

Brown and Will Rice are currently co-sponsoring the silent film series, and Brown has tentative plans for another series during the spring semester.

Houston Speakers

Jones, too, has managed to secure speakers from the Houston area to shave costs and to allow them to offer an exercise and dance class and an arts and crafts class which meet weekly.

Besides the money problem, the other major source of headaches for the committee chairmen seemed to be getting ideas for interesting and suitable speakers. Edwards spoke for all the chairmen when he said that he welcomed suggestions from committee members, college members, and other program chairmen.

Geffin noted that only about one out of seven ideas could be developed into a possible program, because the speakers themselves were often unavailable, or available only at a very high price.