Fiedler at Hanszen

Dynamic critic to lead symposium

By PHIL GARON
Thresher Editorial Staff

Leslie A. Fiedler, one of the most dynamic and outspoken figures in contemporary American literary criticism, will be the central figure in the Hanszen College Fall Symposium.

“Race, Class, Sex and the Novel” will be the topic of the formal Symposium address, which Fiedler will deliver after the evening meal in the Hanszen Commons on November 30.

The English Department has scheduled a colloquium for 4 pm Wednesday, December 1, in which Fiedler will deliver a brief lecture and will then engage in an informal discussion with faculty, graduate students, and undergraduate members of the English Department.

A panel discussion on “The New Mutants” will be held that evening in the Hanszen Commons, again after the evening meal. Drs. Louis Mackey, Douglas Milburn, and Gerald O’Grady will sit on the panel along with Fiedler in a discussion which proposes to examine the youth culture—the “generation of mutants,” in Fiedler’s words.

Outspoken Critic

Among the related cultural aspects brought into the discussion will be the hiatus that exists between the two generations, the psychedelic influence, and the new emphasis on “Pop” in art and literature.

Fiedler is currently a member of the English Department of the State University of New York at Buffalo. His magnum opus, “Love and Death in the American Novel,” has become a standard text in classes of modern American literature, and his outspoken viewpoint has earned him a reputation in some circles as the “wild man of American literary criticism.”

Whiskey to Drugs

He has also published “Waiting for the End,” a study of the American cultural shifts from “a whisky culture to a drug culture,” and the new attitudes toward race and sex as revealed through works of literature. His new novel, released this summer, is entitled “The Last Jew in America.”

Fiedler has taught at Princeton, Columbia, Indiana, and Montana Universities, and at the Universities of New York, Wisconsin, Rome, Bologna, and Athens, as well as lecturing at more than one hundred other universities.