'Mankind Must Live Within Laws Of Nature'--Mead

Overflow Crowd Hears Respected Anthropologist

By LYN MARTIN

Is man capable of living in the world which he has developed?

This was the question raised by Margaret Mead as she spoke in the over-crowded Rice Memorial Center Friday afternoon. The crowd of 3000 in a room originally set up to seat 1700 was evidence of the noted anthropologist's popularity on the Rice campus.

MANY IN the audience were impressed by Dr. Mead's completely natural manner of speaking. Her talk was extemporaneous. "She didn't stand there and read a learned paper," one student remarked. "She just talked to us."

In treating the subject of "Changing Estimates of Human Potentialities" Dr. Mead told her audience that man has always questioned his contemporaries' capacity to cope with a given situation.

"CRISSES OF doubt occur when human groups are confronted with great contrasts between themselves and other groups, be-

MARGARET MEAD

"... not by changing our genes..."

between one generation and another, between the world in which their forbears lived and their own world, or the world towards which they are consciously moving."

According to Dr. Mead, man has two fears today. First, he doubts that so-called primitive people will learn essential political and technical skills "in time."

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Second, he doubts that we have in our own advanced society enough good brains to cope with the new scientific discoveries and their applications.

BOTH OF THESE fears, she said, are groundless. “We underestimate the ability and ease with which men can learn what it was very difficult for other men to invent.”

The real problem modern man has is his willingness to die for the values he believes in. This is an instinct which we can trace as far back as the baboons.

At one time, Dr. Mead pointed out, such an instinct made sense. One man might die in order to make a better or safer world for his wife, his children, or his society. Today, however, those people we are fighting for would die too.

THE HUMAN society has no built in capacity to save itself. We must have new political institutions which make it possible to live and work instead of fight and die.”