Fuller to speak Thursday

By Larry Wilson

- Buckminster Fuller asks himself fundamental questions, answers them with his own experiences, and proceeds to reduce his problem-solutions to practice for the benefit of humanity. He radiates a personal warmth and humility, a sense of urgency concerning the state of mankind. His philosophy is utterly simple and effective; in his book entitled, _Utopia or Oblivion_, he says, "I go along with the 5000-year-old philosophy of the Bhagavad-Gita which says: Action is the product of the qualities inherent in nature. It is only the ignorant man who, misled by personal egotism, says: 'I am the doer.'"

Dr. Fuller was born in 1895, grew up in Millon, Mass., and spent his summers on Deer Island, off the coast of Maine. He spent one unhappy term at Harvard, and in 1917 enrolled in the U.S. Naval Academy. In the same year he married Anne Hewlett, daughter of a prominent New York architect.

At the Naval Academy, Fuller was educated as a comprehen- sive scientist. The training which he received in ballistics, logistics, navigation, and gaming techniques greatly influenced his thinking. Fuller would agree with Albert Einstein that the superb scientist may have the same interests as the artist. Fuller is also acutely aware of the limitations of science and technology. Life is metaphysical; poets and philosophers are the custodians of all the needs of humanity in the shortest possible time. Solutions consist of comprehensively designed, world-wide service industries and facilities.

Fuller is also acutely aware of the limitations of science and technology. He was deeply influenced by Thoreau and by his famous great-uncle, Margaret Fuller. Life is metaphysical; poets try to describe what life is, while science discovers what life isn't. Fuller, however, would agree with the statement of Vannevar Bush that science only heightens the mystery of life. Fuller is optimistic nor pessimistic about the future. Time, and the forces of evolution will decide our fate, he says. In the meantime, the individual can function as a trim tab. This is a device which controls the rudder on a ship or plane. Although it is a tiny part of the ship, it exerts an influence far out of proportion to its size, by creating a small vacuum which draws the ship around. Fuller sees himself functioning as a trim tab aboard Spaceship Earth. He has boundless faith in youth, and firmly believes that the approaching revolution is one of consciousness; for the first time in its history, all of mankind can be a success.

Dr. Fuller's books are on sale in The Coop. He is the subject of an excellent interview in the January '72 issue of Playboy, and is also featured in this month's issue of Architectural Forum. He will be available to meet with some students on the afternoon of Thursday, Feb. 10, before his evening address in Kreg. For more information, call 354-6420.

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