

University television to begin new weekly series on America

By HOWARD TROXLER
Staff Writer

"I can see that, given a choice between freedom and social order, social order will be chosen, at the expense of free culture," Dr. E. Maynard Adams, chairperson of the UNC Philosophy Department, warned recently. Adams will be moderator of a weekly television series entitled "The Idea of America" that will be broadcast Saturdays at 7 p.m., beginning June 4, on the UNC Television Network.

Adams said a number of distinguished scholars from around the

nation, invited to participate in the project, met last summer in North Carolina where they each presented a paper dealing with a specific facet of contemporary American society. They then met for a series of informal discussion groups, which were filmed and then edited. From these edited films, University Television produced "The Idea of America" series.

The television series analyzes America today from the perspective of an Enlightenment culture. The panel members disagree on their evaluations of contemporary America: some are positive, some are negative about the nation's current condition and the outlook for the future.

"Enlightenment," Adams explained, "means the attainment of freedom and social order through knowledge and rationality." The new American nation

in the 18th century was a "testing ground" for this new concept, Adams said. The programs to be aired will analyze the concept and examine present-day America to see if the Enlightenment ideal has been successful.

The series is an exploration of America today, how it has changed and how it is changing. Some of the questions analyzed and discussed by the panel members are:

- Has American really been an experiment in the applied Enlightenment?
- Why has America, the leader of the democratic revolution, resisted the world-wide socialist movement?
- Is America today a backward, rigid, calcified society, or is the experimental attitude of the Enlightenment alive and well in America?



Maynard Adams

• Do Americans have an intellectual vision of man and the world that will support a free society in the years to come?

• If not, can Americans regain such a vision?

Culture is an important factor in this type of society, Adams said.

"Long tradition maintains that social order required a culture and institutions to be preserved," Adams said. "One thing about the human era is the development of institutionalized ways of doing things, replacing genetic control of behavior. A free culture is the heart of a free society."

Distinguished scholars from around the nation were invited to participate in the series. They are Morton W. Bloomfield, professor of English at Harvard University and chairman of the Board of Trustees of the National Humanities Center located in the Research Triangle Park; Peter Gay, professor of history, Yale University;

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