

# Baby doc blasts arms race

By Paul Szydelco  
Of the Emerald

It is "difficult to raise children in a comfortable, friendly, relaxed way" with the tension and threats that abound in this nuclear age, famed 1950s "baby doctor" Benjamin Spock told an EMU Ballroom crowd of about 200 Saturday night.

Spock, the co-chair of the National Committee for a Safe Nuclear Policy, said studies show that children do have anxiety but that it is not based on their own mortality.

An average child worries about "what will happen to me if my parents get annihilated," he said.

This anxiety later turns into cynicism, Spock said, adding that more than half of the population believes there will be a nuclear war before the year 2000.

"An amazing, disturbing phenomenon is how few people become activist even in a very mild way," he told the crowd.

While parents should write letters to world leaders and even demonstrate, they also should reassure their children and encourage them to write.

"Children write touchingly sincere, pleading letters, and I think that probably a child's letter does more good than an adult's," Spock said.

Another reason for anxiety is that some sources of security, like the comfort of extended families, religion, and a sense of community, have been largely eliminated, he said.

Without the obligations that accompany belonging and the confidence inherent in having people around, children grow up with a "loose feeling of detachment," Spock said.

Another source of tension in our society, he said, is too much competition an outgrowth of the "rugged individualist" mentality.

Spock then reviewed the present nuclear situation.

The President, the Secretary of Defense and other top leaders have all said they "disbelieve in disarmament," Spock said. These leaders believe the United States can outdistance the Soviets in the arms race and win a nuclear war, as well as eventually demand that the Soviet Union divest itself of the coun-



Dr. Benjamin Spock

tries it has taken over and to give up communism, he said.

This is a "child's fantasy, an insane person's fantasy, and at the very least, an ignoramus' fantasy," Spock said.

He recommended letters, phone calls, demonstrations and even civil disobedience to further the cause.

Spock concluded that all the little things add up and that individuals can help change policy.

"You have to make up your own mind, and then you've got to have the guts and determination... The important part of taking your position and doing something, is to keep on doing it," he said.



## The beat of a different drum

The Portland Indian Urban Council was one of several groups of Indian singers featured at a Pow Wow held Friday night in the EMU Ballroom. They were performing a round dance, part of a social get together for local Indians.

Photo by Ken Kromer

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